

# THE RIPPLE

October 2022

50p



## PARISH SERVICES

### SUNDAY SERVICES:

8:00am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
11:00am Parish Communion weekly

6:30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion According to the  
Book of Common Prayer

6:30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Informal Service

4:00pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Messy church (no service in August)

**WEEKDAYS:** 9:30am Holy Communion - Thursday

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**“THE RIPPLE”  
(Whittington Parish Church Magazine)  
Vol 35 No 6**

October 2022

Dear Friends,

One of my earliest childhood memories is of hearing the news of the death of John Lennon. I was very young at the time and it may have been something to do with the novelty of having a television set, but I can very vividly remember, even at that young age of being aware that something very important had happened and that people were crying and were very sad because of it. It is a memory that has always stayed with me along with other significant moments such as the death of Princess Diana and the 9/11 bombing of the twin towers; all moments in our history that we know are significant and bring about change. I wonder if my grandchildren will have similar memories in years to come, because there is no doubt that the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was one such history changing moment. Most people today have never known another Monarch in their lifetimes and it is only a few months ago that we all joined in with the Jubilee celebrations for the longest ever reigning Monarch.

To me one of the things that stood out about Queen Elizabeth II's reign has been her willingness to publicly voice her faith in Christ as being what has driven her to serve her country in the way that she has. She has lived out the life that she believed God had called her to and has done so to the best of her ability. All of us by the time of reading this article will have had the opportunity to pay our respects to Her Majesty, sign condolence books and to give thanks to God for her life.

As we look back though, so we must also look forward and give thanks to God for King Charles III. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September and along with thousands of other people we sang the words of the National Anthem, and although it did seem odd singing God save the

King, I know that many of you, as I did, find it very moving, and felt as if the baton had been passed from one Monarch to the other.

So let us give thanks to God for the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II, for her faith and dedication to duty; and let us pray for King Charles III as he takes on his new role and leads us as a nation into a new era.

Every Blessing

Suzan

In late September we are launching our own place of welcome that we're going to call CAMEO which stands for Come And Meet Each Other. We will be meeting in church weekly beginning on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September between 10:30 – 12:00noon, and the idea is for everyone who comes to know it's a place for them to come and meet other people from the community.

Please contact me for more details.



# October 2022

## DIARY

### **2 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

11:00am Parish Communion  
6:30pm Holy Communion According to the Book of  
Common Prayer

**3** 10:30am – 12:00noon CAMEO – Come and Meet Each Other;  
further details on page 7

**4** 12:00pm Whittington Senior Citizens' celebrate Harvest  
Festival with a lunch £12pp; details on page 9 – 11

2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church

7:00pm Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St John  
the Baptist in church

**5** 7:30pm Monthly Whist Drive in the Senior Citizens' Hall,  
£2.50 including light refreshments

**6** 9:30am Holy Communion

### **9 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

11:00am Parish Communion  
4:00pm Messy Church

**10** 10:30am – 12:00noon CAMEO – Come and Meet Each Other;  
further details on page 7

**11** 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church

**4**

**13** 9:30am Holy Communion

### **16 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

11:00am Parish Communion  
6:30pm Informal Service

**17** 10:30am – 12:00noon CAMEO – Come and Meet Each Other;  
further details on page 7

**18** 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church

**20** 9:30am Holy Communion

**21** Whittington Church of England School breaks for  
Half Term

### **23 LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

8:00am Holy Communion  
11:00am Parish Communion

**24** 10:30am – 12:00noon CAMEO – Come and Meet Each Other;  
further details on page 7

**25** 12:00 noon Whittington Senior Citizens monthly lunch at the  
White Lion; further details on pages 9 – 11

**27** 9:30am Holy Communion

12:00noon Soup Lunch at The Rectory; further details page 11

### **30 FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT SUMMER TIME ENDS**

11:00am Parish Communion

7:00 for 7:30pm Bingo at the White Lion

Mountains can only be climbed with the knees bent. - Anon

**Extracts from the Parish Registers  
for the month of August 2022**



**HOLY BAPTISM**

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 Kora Marilyn Jones  
of Elson, Ellesmere



**HOLY MATRIMONY**

We sent our Best Wishes to:-

27<sup>th</sup> August 2022 Artur Radoslaw Macnicki  
and Amy Jane Whalen  
both of Penrhos Court



**REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

“May the Souls of the Faithful Departed Rest in Peace”

1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 Mark Vaughn  
aged 57 of Boot Street

8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 Edward Frank Gray  
aged 81 of Alma Close, West Felton

11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 Pauline Anne Jones  
aged 73 of Castlefields

26<sup>th</sup> August 2022 Kenneth John Hebditch  
aged 81 of Yew Tree Avenue

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**Frank Gray RIP**



Carole and Frank have been embedded in village life for the past 30 years. Frank was actually born in West Felton in 1941 and although his working years took him to live in Scotland, Wales and Ireland – he returned home to Shropshire which he loved.

Prior to his failing health he would enjoy his games of whist, indoor bowls

and all the coffee mornings and events he could possibly attend in Whittington and West Felton.

He followed the traditions of his mother Dorothy when attending Whittington Church and sitting in the Gray family pew. One of his proudest moments was taking his daughter Lisa from West Felton to Whittington on her wedding day in a horse and carriage.



His funeral at St John the Baptist Church in Whittington was attended by so many friends and family, it was a wonderful celebration of his life and Carole wishes to thank everyone for the support, cards, messages and donations to the Church and Dementia UK.

His smile and mischievous glint in his eye shall be missed.

**Lisa**

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**C A M E O – COME AND MEET EACH OTHER**

**in WHITTINGTON PARISH CHURCH**

**STARTING**

**MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**10:30AM – 12:00 NOON**

**Come along to our new, weekly,  
group to meet other people from  
the community**



**There'll be tea, coffee and toast**

**Contact Suzan for more details:**

**revwilliams1991@icloud.com or Tel: 01691 238658**

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**Dioceses concerned for farming communities in drought**

Diocesan authorities in rural areas across Britain are increasingly concerned over the welfare of their parishioners, especially among the farming communities.

In many farms across Cornwall, for example, the drought is so severe that springs have dried up, leaving farmers dependent on boreholes to water their stock. The summer crops were poor, and now it is difficult to re-plant or sow crops for the coming season. As one farmer explained, “the ground is like concrete – you can’t plough a dust bowl.”

The parched grass has forced farmers to feed their winter silage early, and meanwhile the cost of winter feed is rocketing. Added to that is fuel poverty, with spiralling prices meaning that where it used to cost £500 to fill an oil tank for the winter, it now costs up to £3,000.

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**REMEMBERING HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

Along with everyone else I have been saddened by the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth and was amazed at the news that as many as 31% of Britons had claimed to have either spoken to, or seen, her Majesty. I thought it would be lovely to have a memory from amongst our parishioners of one such person. Sadly, I have not been successful in my search, but I have found 2 people with a memory of our new King Charles III and his Queen Consort.

In 2011 you can imagine how I felt when my husband passed me a letter with the Cabinet Office address on the envelope. We sat down to open it and were astounded to read an invitation was extended to honour me with an MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours, and would I confirm if I would accept the honour. How could I ever refuse the Queen who had been inspirational to me all my life. I was so excited at the thought of meeting her. The day came at Buckingham Palace, with my husband and two daughters accompanying me. I knew by this time that the Queen was in Melbourne on an official visit. While waiting to be presented I was told it would be the Prince of Wales presenting the awards. My award was for services to healthcare, and the community of Oswestry. Prince Charles spoke of both things having been well informed. He pinned on the medal and shook my hand offering thanks.

I am proud to say that I had an invitation from Queen Elizabeth, and a presentation from the now, King Charles. A day and honours I will never forget.  
*Margaret Kerr, Station Road*

It was in 2014, just before my retirement as Organising Secretary of the League of Friends at the Orthopaedic Hospital, that I had the honour of being

invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. While waiting to enter those famous gates, the guests had to queue along Constitution Hill next to a verge of long grasses alongside the palace garden wall. As I started sneezing, I wondered if it had been the influence of the then Prince Charles that had caused the grasses to remain unmown in the interests of ecology.

As I was to discover, I was not the only person that day to be afflicted with hay fever. Whilst walking around the grounds of the Palace and mingling among the other guests, I was approached by Camilla, then the Duchess of Cornwall, who kindly asked me if I was suffering from the pollen. I resisted the temptation to ask her if we could blame her husband for our runny noses that day!  
*Helen Hughes, Church Street*

**WHITTINGTON SENIOR CITIZENS  
Over 50’s Club – Recycled Teenagers**

I apologise if parts of my entry are repetitive but new readers are picking up a copy of the magazine, find parts interesting, and come along to see what we are about.

The Monday 2:00pm Whist sessions are for both regular players and anyone wishing to learn; just pop in, you will be made very welcome by Liz Corrin; there is a small charge of £1.50. This is a small gathering and more players would be very welcome. On the first Wednesday in the month at 7:30pm Carol and Derek Pope run another opportunity to play, usually seven or eight tables – but there is always room for more. There is a small charge of £2.50 to cover tea/coffee and biscuits. Both the weekly Monday and monthly Wednesday evening sessions are open to everyone, not just club members.

The next monthly Tuesday lunch at the White Lion will be on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October; these are held on the fourth Tuesday each month and must be booked in advance. The cost is currently £10 per person and includes a two-course meal plus a cup of tea or coffee. Once a lunch has been ordered it must be paid for as the club will be expected to pay for the meal should you not turn up. **Please contact ME on 01691 662236 if you wish to join us.** Membership of the club is not necessary, if you would like to join us one month, you do not have to commit indefinitely; but many people do become members of the club, having found us a friendly bunch.

The regular Thursday coffee mornings continue to be very popular; we have a good natter and catch up. The same applies here, membership is not a requirement and we currently entertain circa 20 members and friends. We meet any time after 10:00am and finish when the person washing up starts collecting the mugs! We ask for only £1.50; we all know costs are going up. For anyone wishing to join us as a re-cycled teenager the fee is still only £10 for the year.

The line dance classes continue with Steve Mason on Monday between 7:30 – 9:00pm, the cost is £6 per session for upper beginners and improvers, call him on 07963662426 for details. Steve always welcomes both new dancers and those that may not have danced for some time. Sonya holds Exercise Classes on a Wednesday afternoon 1:30 – 2:30pm; this is great fun and is open to all ages and capabilities. The exercises can be done sitting on a chair or standing as the class progresses; come along and give it a go for just £5 a class; regulars please note the revised cost. Eleanor Moss has restarted her after school junior ballet classes on Thursday afternoons.

Youth Club Meetings run by TNS on Thursday evenings have restarted, and will continue during term time.

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September we had a trip to Southport; we were apprehensive as the weather forecast had not been very promising, particularly after the torrential rain, thunder and lightning experienced on the previous Monday evening. We left Whittington at 9:30am, with driver Mark, and arrived in Southport at 11:15am where we all dispersed for coffee. The afternoon turned out to be very warm with the sun actually coming through about 1:00pm. We re-boarded the coach at 4:00pm for return journey and the heavens opened!; we had a lovely day. Thanks go to Owen's Travelmaster for the use of their coach.



We have been informed that the Rugby Club are ceasing to provide hot meals, so we have needed to find a venue for our Christmas lunch in December. We have tentatively booked the Navigation Inn, Maesbury for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December (**please note change of day and date**).

**The following events are planned for the future:**

**4<sup>th</sup> October** Harvest Lunch – £12 pp and to include ham and beef accompanied by salads, followed by a sweet and cheese and biscuits. If anyone would like to contribute a salad, a fruit

**10**

crumble or pie or biscuits for the cheese, they would be very welcome.

November 26<sup>th</sup> – Coffee and Mince Pie morning – entry by donation

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Tea

December 16<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Lunch – The Navigation Inn, Maesbury – **to be confirmed**

**Gillian Roberts Secretary 01691 662236**

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**Soup Lunch at The Rectory,**  
 Castle Street

on the **FOLLOWING THURSDAYS**

at **12.00 noon**

27<sup>th</sup> October

24<sup>th</sup> November

5<sup>th</sup> January



contact Suzan for more details and to book your place.

revwilliams1991@icloud.com

01691 238658

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**NATIONAL POETRY DAY – THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

National Poetry Day was founded in 1994 by the charity Forward Arts Foundation, whose mission is to celebrate excellence in poetry and increase its audience. The day enjoys the support of the BBC, Arts Council England and leading literary and cultural organisations, alongside booksellers, publishers, libraries and schools. There has been poetry in expected and unexpected places; in burger vans, on the side of buildings and strapped to the legs of carrier pigeons! The theme for 2022 is “The Environment”.

**11**

According to figures published by the National Literacy Trust in 2020 66.5% of children and young people agreed that writing poetry made them feel better during lockdown. Poetry is the most common way for secondary school students to encounter a Black, Asian or other minority ethnic author and single poems are the easiest texts to insert into the curriculum and sales of poetry books rose by 33% in October 2020.

Last year the Poetry Society’s Young Poets Network for under 26-year-olds ran several writing challenges, with prompts, poems and ideas to inspire new writing about nature, the environment and climate change. The following poem by Renée Orleans-Lindsay was one of the commended entries, it is entitled ‘A United Solution’

the solution isn’t ‘go green’.  
rather, it’s quite a marshy brown;  
all the colours on the spectrum thrust together,  
pulled into braided harmony.

might the sagging glaciers of the Himalayas, dribbling into the Yangtze and  
be nourished with kitschy Korean neoprene? the Indus,  
those gutsy, ebullient women divers; grasping cold abalone.  
the waning coral reefs crumbling into chroma before your eyes – your  
might they be galvanised by Ghanaian manganese, child’s eyes  
buzzing phone-chip’s life and breath?

it’s coalition we need; London’s taxis fuelling Lima’s arid faucets,  
China’s offal coursing through phones rather than waters,  
tit-for-tat, recycling, redistribution –  
and if everyone made some contribution  
today’s teetering future might be solid, stuck

here’s a prayer for humanity and good luck.

~~~~~  
**Hymn or maths?** A father had taken his small son to church. The boy listened attentively without saying a word until the clergyman announced: “We will now sing hymn two hundred and twenty-two: ‘Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand’, two hundred and twenty-two.”

Alarmed, the little boy nudged his father. “Do we have to work this one out?”



## On publishing my book

The Rectory  
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

After all these years, who would have believed it: to have my own book printed! I must admit, I had imagined a leather-bound volume with gold leaf lettering on the spine – perhaps even titled ‘Volume One’, implying future delights when further work would appear. A paperback, held together with glue was a slight disappointment. The publisher’s reason for a print run of 50, saying that it meant fewer would have to be dumped in cut-price bookshops, was not what I had expected either.

He seemed to think that my commentary on Eusebius’s tables for cross-referencing the gospels, as explained in his letter to Carpius, would not have mass interest. While I concede it will be unlikely to dent the sales of Harry Potter, and that I am unlikely to be involved in negotiating the film rights, I had hoped for slightly more enthusiasm for this stride forward in global knowledge.

The excitement of the book launch and signing was also tempered when only the bishop arrived, expecting a free copy, so he could mark it for theological errors. My suggestion that he take a copy to colour it in did not go down well. I suspect I will not now be asked to deliver a paper on it at the next clergy conference.

I was briefly excited when several parishioners came into the shop. But it turned out that one wanted to book a baptism with me, and another wanted to complain that at his recent wedding, I had nearly married the best man to the bride. I was tempted to tell him that the time may come when he wished that I had, but decided that would be another sale lost.

I could not even console myself with a free drink. The publisher had only brought two bottles of that particular white wine, of unknown origin, that seems specially reserved for book launches and retirement parties. I suspect it derives less from a vineyard and more from a laboratory. One bottle he kept for himself and the other disappeared after my Confirmation class came in to ask whether the book would be serialised on TV.

In the end, I bought all 50 copies myself, placed a note in the bookshop window saying that, due to exceptional demand, the print run had been entirely sold out. It has also solved the annual problem of Christmas presents; in your case, a second copy will probably arrive for your birthday too.

**Your loving uncle,  
Eustace**

~~~~~  
**AN AFTERNOON IN THE OCTOBER GARDEN**

1. Remove the leaves from greenhouse tomatoes to allow late fruit to ripen
2. Reduce watering and give overwinter protection to pelargonium geraniums.
3. A good time to pot-up some violas for winter display. If dead-headed regularly they have the ability to flower for months in the darkest part of the year.

**FLOWER OF THE MONTH: PERSICARIA AMPLEXICAVLE –**



A newcomer to the Autumn scene. It has dense spikes of flower in pink, white or rich crimson. Flowering from August onwards, it is a polygonum but grows from a crown and has no running roots. The leaves are broad and turn a fiery crimson and bronze in the fall. It prefers some shade, not too dry.

**TREE OF THE MONTH: ITALIAN CYPRESS – (CUPRESSUS**

SEMPERVIRENS) A dark sombre hardy evergreen conifer, but with a pleasing columnar habit of growth, giving an elegant architectural effect. In the Italian landscape it can reach a height of 50 – 100 feet and bears tight round cones in late summer. Cypress is the symbol of immortality and of the afterlife, it is also known as the ‘Graveyard Cypress’ and that’s why we often find them in cemeteries; its absolute verticality, rising upwards, the tree indicates the soul that is heading towards the celestial kingdom.



Known also as the ‘mournful tree’ by the Greeks and Romans, the tree was

sacred to the Fates and Furies as well as the rulers of the underworld. Romans would carry branches of cypress as a sign of respect and bodies of the respected were placed upon cypress branches previous to internment. The symbolism of this tree still survives in the Muslim world and in Western culture designating hope, as it points to heaven.



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**The story behind ... O God, our help in ages past**

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Still may we dwell secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defence is sure...

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night,  
Before the rising sun.

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748) is often called the ‘Father of English hymnody’. Certainly, before his hymns came along, congregational singing was a tedious business. He was born on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1674 in Southampton; at the time of his birth, his father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was briefly in prison for his non-conformist beliefs. As a boy, Watts showed outstanding ability with language, learning Greek, Hebrew, Latin and French. He also had an unusual ability for easy rhyming in English demonstrated at the young age of 5 when, scolded for giggling in family prayers because he had seen a mouse on the bell-rope, he had instantly composed the line: ‘There was a mouse, for want of stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers!’

Being a nonconformist Watts was unable to attend Oxford or Cambridge as these universities were restricted to Anglicans, so in 1690 he went to the Dissenting Academy at Stoke Newington in 1690 instead. His literary ability, combined with his interest in theology, made him very unhappy with

the congregational singing of the day, which focused almost entirely on strict metrical versions of the psalms. One Sunday after church, Isaac complained to his father about this. His father challenged him to write something better, so although only 18, Watts produced his first hymn – which was duly sung the following Sunday. It was such a success that he wrote new hymn texts every Sunday for the next two years. In all, he went on to write more than 600 hymns, some of them are still well-loved today: from this one, ‘O God, Our Help in Ages Past’, which is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, to ‘When I Survey the Wondrous Cross’, and the Christmas carol ‘Joy to the World’.

Watts’ also wrote poetry; the most famous “Against Idleness and Mischief” being parodied by Lewis Carroll in the poem “How doth the Little Crocodile” included in Chapter 2 of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland; and in Chapter 10 there is another where the poem “Tis the Voice of the Lobster” parodies the opening lines of Watt’s composition “The Sluggard”:

‘Tis the voice of the sluggard; I heard him complain,  
“You have waked me too soon, I must slumber again.”  
As the door on its hinges, so he on his bed,  
Turns his sides and his shoulders and his heavy head.

“A little more sleep, and a little more slumber;”  
Thus he wastes half his days, and his hours without number,  
And when he gets up, he sits folding his hands,  
Or walks about sauntering, or trifling he stands.

I pass’d by his garden, and saw the wild brier,  
The thorn and the thistle grow broader and higher;  
The clothes that hang on him are turning to rags;  
And his money still wastes till he starves or he begs.

I made him a visit, still hoping to find  
That he took better care for improving his mind:  
He told me his dreams, talked of eating and drinking;  
But scarce reads his Bible, and never loves thinking.

Said I then to my heart, “Here’s a lesson for me,”  
This man’s but a picture of what I might be:  
But thanks to my friends for their care in my breeding,  
Who taught me betimes to love working and reading.



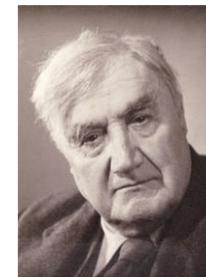
Carroll’s lobster

## RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS – BORN 150 YEARS AGO

Ralph Vaughan Williams was not only a composer of the utmost importance for English music but also one of the great symphonists of the 20th century. He was born on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1872 in the Cotswold village of Down Ampney, where his father was vicar. Antecedents included the interconnected families of Wedgwood and Darwin. Following his father’s death in 1875 he was brought up at Leith Hill Place in Surrey and educated at Charterhouse School, the Royal College of Music and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a pupil of Charles Stanford and Hubert Parry, later studying with Max Bruch in Berlin and Maurice Ravel in Paris.

At the turn of the century, he was among the very first to travel into the countryside to collect folk songs and carols from singers, notating them for future generations to enjoy. As musical editor of The English Hymnal he composed several hymn tunes that remain popular (including *Sine Nomine*, “For all the Saints” – the words of which were written by William Walsham How, whilst Rector of Whittington; and *Down Ampney*, “Come down O love Divine”). A long and deep friendship with Gustav Holst was a constructive relationship which was crucial to the development of both composers.

Vaughan Williams took three years off his age in order to volunteer for the army during the 1914-1918 war; after a long period of training and waiting he was sent to France in 1916, serving as a wagon orderly in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Later, he was given a commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery and found himself in charge of both guns and horses. The carnage and the loss of close friends such as the composer George Butterworth deeply affected him and influenced his music after the war.



Youthful atheism eventually settled down into cheerful agnosticism. He was widely read, and heavily influenced by poets and writers including Shakespeare, Bunyan, Blake and Walt Whitman.

Vaughan Williams was married twice: in 1897 to Adeline Fisher, and in 1953 to the poet Ursula Wood. A knighthood was offered and refused, but the Order of Merit was conferred upon him in 1935.

He died on 26 August 1958; his ashes are interred in Westminster Abbey, near Purcell. In a long and productive life, music flowed from his creative pen in profusion. Hardly a musical genre was untouched or failed to be enriched by his work, which included nine symphonies, concertos for piano, violin, oboe and tuba, five operas, chamber, ballet and film music, a large body of songs and song cycles, and various important unaccompanied and orchestral choral works. His orchestral works include such popular favourites as *The Lark Ascending*, *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, *Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus*, *The Wasps Overture* and the *English Folk Song Suite*.

Taken in part from the Ralph Vaughan Williams Society website

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**WHERE DOES THAT ORIGINATE FROM?**

**A Square Meal** - The saying having a square meal comes from the English Royal Navy during the time of Nelson. In order to stop the plates/dishes slipping around on the table when the ship was at sea, four pieces of wood were nailed to the benches in the shape of a square to stop the plates from slipping... hence ‘having a square meal’.

**Sincere** – The word ‘sincere’ has some interesting roots. One story is that it comes from the ancient marble quarries of Rome. Apparently, unscrupulous stone dealers covered the marble’s imperfections with wax. The practice eventually became illegal, as the Roman Empire certified that all marble must be “sine cera” or “sincerus”, meaning without wax – genuine. So, to be sincere is to be genuine.



**The whole nine yards** – This originated in the First World War. A Vickers machine gun boasted a nine-yard magazine belt. To ‘give them the whole nine yards’ meant to use up the entire belt on the enemy.

**To let your hair down** – In Tudor England the ladies wore their hair up, and in ‘wimples’ (those pointed bonnets you see in paintings). Beneath, their hair was piled high and pinned. Naturally, in the bed chamber, caps and hats, as well as other garments, were disposed of. It was a time for wanton behaviour and abandonment – but only in the bedroom, and in private. Hence, letting one’s hair down was a practical as well as a symbolic thing.

**FLORAL TRIBUTE**

Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,  
 Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearly in September mist.  
 I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,  
 Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.  
 A promise made and kept for life – that was your gift –  
 Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,  
 Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.  
 The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,  
 Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century’s weight.

Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.  
 Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower  
 Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained  
 Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence  
 A silent bell disguising a single voice. A blurred new day  
 Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and  
 Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,  
 This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness  
 Holds and glows beyond the border of its bloom.



**Simon Armitage**  
*Poet Laurette*

Released to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II is a double acrostic, with two verses consisting of nine lines, the first letters of which spell Elizabeth. The Lily of the Valley was said to be the Queen’s favourite flower and was included in her coronation bouquet in 1953, and she chose it when the Royal Family shared their favourite blooms in 2020 after the pandemic for the online Chelsea Flower Show. The flower is said to symbolise purity, sincerity, trustworthiness and happiness, and is sometimes referred to as Jacob’s ladder.

~~~~~  
 “Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”  
**Desmond Tutu**

~~~~~  
**Notices outside a church:** Worn out? Come in for a Service! This church is not just four weddings and a funeral.

## Community organisations support volunteers at important archaeological dig

Qube - Oswestry Community Action and Pete's Taxis were two of the organisations involved in an archaeological dig over the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September., both providing community transport to and from the site.



The dig, led by Professor Stewart Ainsworth, Visiting Professor of Landscape Archaeology at the University of Chester, was designed to investigate local links to a newly identified medieval site in the area. Volunteer archaeologists, students studying History A level, keen to pursue a career in archaeology, pupils from Whittington Primary School and interested local people from the area spent three days digging a series of test pits to help understand the site.



Davina Fairweather project coordinator for Whittington Castle said: 'This was an amazing experience for everyone involved. Working with professional archaeologists is something most people only ever dream of; on this occasion we could make it reality. It was especially gratifying that some of our volunteers contributed to the range of finds discovered at the site.'

There are plans to develop archaeology further in the area, based at Whittington Castle. A proposal for funding will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in due course.

~~~~~  
**Baptism** – In a church, at the font, a small boy was being christened. His older sister whispered: "Behind his ears, too, Reverend Smyth!"

## **RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

Now is the time for making pickles and preserves. These comes from the 1980 Castle Cookbook, put together by Christine Roberts and the Whittington Castle Fayre Committee. The first came from the late Mrs Taft and is an ideal recipe as we try to use less energy – **no cooking required!**

### FRUIT CHUTNEY

|                                                           |                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 lb cooking apples – peeled, cored and cut into quarters | Pass the apples, onions, dates and sultanas through a course mincer.                                         |
| 1 lb onions – peeled, cored and cut into quarter          | Add the sugar, salt, pepper and spiced vinegar. Leave for 24 hours, stirring every few hours. Pot and cover. |
| 1 lb stoneless dates                                      |                                                                                                              |
| 1 lb sultanas                                             |                                                                                                              |
| ½ pint spiced malt vinegar                                |                                                                                                              |
| 1 lb soft brown sugar (dark)                              |                                                                                                              |
| 1 level tsp salt                                          |                                                                                                              |
| ¼ level tsp ground black pepper                           |                                                                                                              |

This second one was submitted by Agnes Ward; it requires less than 15 minutes cooking time – and is recommended! – Use a large jam kettle or ½ recipe

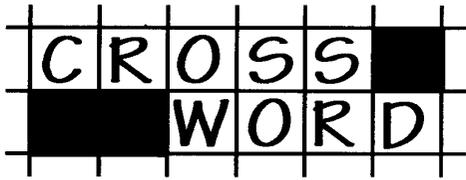
### MARROW PICKLE (PICCALLILI)

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 4 lb marrow – diced      | 2 lb shallots – diced  |
| 2 lb cauliflower – diced | 3 pints spiced vinegar |
| ½ pint water             | 4 oz salt              |
| 1 tsp dry ginger         | 1½ sugar               |

Set aside ¾ tablespoons of vinegar and then bring all of the above ingredients to the boil for 10 minutes.

1 oz turmeric  
 ½ oz dry mustard  
 4 oz plain flour

Mix the three ingredients together with the set aside vinegar and add to the vegetables. Boil for another 3 minutes.  
 Put into clean, dry, warm jars and cover.



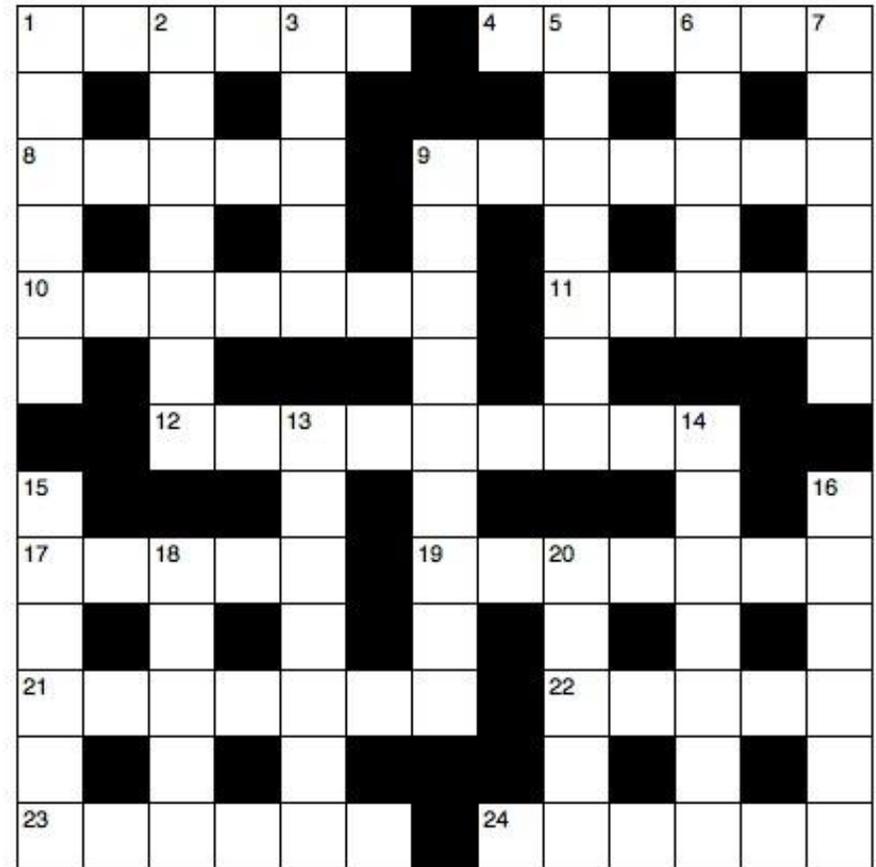
**Across:**

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest’s case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 ‘Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself’
- 11 Banishment (Jeremiah29:1) (5) (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 12 ‘And now I will show you the most — way’(1Corinthians12:31) (9)
- 17 ‘Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not —— the same spirit and follow the same course?’ (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den (anag.) (7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: ‘the land of — ’ (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 ‘As a sheep before her shearers is —, so he did not open his mouth’
- 24 Paul’s birthplace (Acts22:3) (6) (Isaiah 53:7) (6)

**Down:**

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7) (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham’s wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 ‘So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others’ (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife’s beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 ‘For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world’ (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 ‘The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands’ (Acts 17:24) (7)

- 15 ‘If your hand — you to sin, cut it off’(Mark9:43)(6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul’s eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track (Job41:30) (5)
- 20 Religious doctrine (5)



**Henry Ford’s secret** – When the late Mr and Mrs Henry Ford celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a reporter asked them: “To what do you attribute your fifty years of successful married life?” “The formula,” said Ford, “is the same formula I have always used in making cars – just stick to one model.”

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. - Charles Gordy

**OCTOBER at Whittington Castle**  
**The Castle is now open every day 9:00am – 5:00pm**



**1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> October 10:00am-4:00pm Handmade Fair** has been rescheduled to this new date with stalls throughout the ground with all manner of gifts and items on offer

**15<sup>th</sup> October 10:00am-4:00pm Darn It, Patch It and Join It at the Castle** – What to do with an old shirt – make a house. This Crafting Day Creative Course is £55 and includes morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and car parking; limited places must be pre-booked – details of the necessary materials are available from the castle.

**22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 10:00am – 4:00pm Multi-Period Re-enactment;** including the Middle Ages, Napoleonic and Victorian eras for example.

**29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> Oct 10:00am – 4:00pm Wellbeing into Winter**

**31<sup>st</sup> Oct 4:00pm** The function room will be open for anyone wishing to take part in apple-bobbing and craft activities before at **6:00pm Halloween Lantern Parade** around the village.

All these events (excluding the 15<sup>th</sup> October) offer FREE Entrance; there will however be normal car parking charges for visitors.

**Kimberley Powell, Castle Manager**  
 Telephone 01691 662500

E-mail: info @whittingtoncastle.co.uk -Website: www.whittingtoncastle.co.uk

~~~~~  
**LIMERICK**

As Strictly once more takes the floor,  
 It leaves those who love it unsure,  
 If Beeb might forsake  
 The ice on the cake,  
 And flip it to Channel Four.



**Robert Ben-Nathan**

~~~~~  
**Dead cow** – A farmer was trying hard to fill out an extensive and complicated railway company claim sheet for a cow that had been killed on the track. Finally, he came down to the very last item: ‘Disposition of the carcass.’

After puzzling over the question for some time, he wrote: ‘Kind and gentle’.

**CHURCH MICE**



We’re ecclesiastical mice,  
 Wearing small, grey furry cassocks,  
 We conceal ourselves underneath the pews  
 And chew through all the hassocks.

Our congregation’s growing fast,  
 Unlike the humans who venture here,  
 They turn up only once a week,  
 Sing, pray – then disappear!

We scamper in the bell tower  
 And join in merrily with the choir.  
 We cannot sing any low bass notes  
 But join in with the sopranos (only higher).



We nibble the chocolate eggs at Easter,  
 At Christmas there’s rich iced cake.  
 But Harvest Festival is the best  
 When there’s fruit and veg to take.



We have very special Bible skills,  
 Though we couldn’t take a test).  
 Today we’re chewing Deuteronomy  
 To make soft bedding for our nests.

We feel welcome in this lovely church  
 For carved in one wooden pew  
 Is a very tiny mouse God  
 With long tail and whiskers too.



So it’s here that we like to worship,  
 Without a Bible or kneeling mat.  
 We only ask one single prayer...  
 That our church never gets a cat!

**Anita Bass**

~~~~~  
**A child’s definition** ‘Ecclesiastic’: material used to fasten a minister’s robes



The final League bowls games were played during the first week of September, with the autumn renovation of reseeded and top dressing of the bowling green also being completed last month.

The “A” team finished a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> in a competitive 1st Division - Captain Aled Davies had an excellent season finishing fourth in the league averages, losing only two games out of twenty, closely followed by Ben Hampson who finished 10<sup>th</sup>.

Unfortunately, the “B” team struggled in the final fixtures to secure enough points to avoid relegation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. The same fate was also suffered by the “C” team who were relegated to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division; hopefully both these teams can regroup in readiness for a successful 2023 season.

The “D” team finished in mid-table of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division with Jamie Ward and Mervyn Davies both finishing in the top 25 of the league averages. “E” team Captain Graham Ross suffered from player availability during the season, but all the fixtures were completed and provided members with competitive league games.

Several internal competitions were completed with the Men’s Single competition being won by Mel Morris defeating Jamie Ward in a keenly contested game. The Ladies Single competition was won by Jacqui Whitley defeating Alicia Hardie - both these competitions were well attended by the members.

Car Boot sales have now finished for the year and hopefully will recommence next April with a big thank you going to the organisers Ed and Eirlys Williams/Ian and Wena Chalmers.

It is also to be hoped that next season both the Junior Cricket and Ladies Softball teams can build on this year’s success to encourage more of the local community to play cricket.

The AGM will be held in the Clubhouse on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30 pm and we look forward to seeing as many members attending as possible. Further information is available at: whittingtonbowlssec@hotmail.com.

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

**Mouse Makes**

The New Testament has **four gospels, twenty one epistles** and the book of Revelation.

The **epistles** are a collection of **letters** that were written by the apostles to the early Christians, they contain teaching, instruction, advice and encouragement.

The Apostle **Paul** is thought to have written **thirteen** of the *epistles*...

Look in your Bible to see who wrote the other eight and who they were written to.

The word **epistle** comes from the Greek word **epistolé** which means *letter or message*

How many people does Paul send greetings to at the end of his letter to the Romans?  
.....

Which are the longest epistles?  
.....  
.....  
How many chapters do they have?  
.....

Which is the shortest epistle?  
.....  
How many chapters does it have?  
.....

**DID YOU KNOW...?**  
At the time of the New Testament letters were written on scrolls

**G A L A T I A N S J A M E S E J S  
W A E D I S P E T E R A P T L O C  
R O T E T B A W R I T E H I R H R  
I P T M U O U S P H I L E M O N O  
T H E S S A L O N I A N S O M D L  
C O R I N T H I A N S N I T A J L  
S P H I L I P P I A N S A H N U S  
M C O L O S S I A N S A N Y S D P  
H E B R E W S H W E P I S T L E O**

EPISTLE • LETTER • ROMANS • CORINTHIANS • GALATIANS • EPHESIANS  
PHILIPPIANS • COLOSSIANS • THESSALONIANS • TIMOTHY • TITUS • PHILEMON  
HEBREWS • JAMES • PETER • JOHN • JUDE • PAUL • SCROLL • WRITE

## ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS:** 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

**DOWN:** 1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

## OCTOBER EVENTS AT OSWESTRY LIBRARY

**Oswestry Family & Local History Group: Mondays 10:00-12:00 noon and Fridays 1:30-4:00pm** – No booking required, just drop in

**Every Monday 2:00–2:30pm Rhyme Time** for under 5s; **No need to book**

**Every Wednesday 10:30am and Saturday 2:00pm Story Time** for pre-schoolers. No booking required/**Free**

**Every Thursday 3:15-4:15pm Lego** for all ages (children need parental supervision. **No need to book/Free**

**Every Saturday 11:00am-2:00pm Lego** for all ages (children need parental supervision. **No need to book/Free**

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> October Hearing Aid Clinic** – Run by NHS trained volunteers offering battery changes and hearing aid cleaning. **Booking is now essential** – contact the **Hearing Loss Support Service on 01743 342168 or email shis@community-resource.org.uk for an appointment**



**8<sup>th</sup> October – Dungeons and Dragons** Under 16s game in the morning, over 16s in the afternoon. **Booking essential** – contact the Dungeon Master on his Facebook Page (@shropshireDM) or by telephoning 07454797995

**Tues 11<sup>th</sup> October – 2:30-3:30pm Anti-Fraud advice from HSBC**

Learn more about protecting your finances from fraud; advisors will talk about the most common pitfalls: Banking fraud, Common Scams and Anti-fraud measures – No booking required/ **Free**

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> October – 10:30am-12:00 noon Language Café** – a relaxed environment organised by local linguist Ewa Corser. Coffee and tea provided (small donations welcomed). **Booking required/Free**

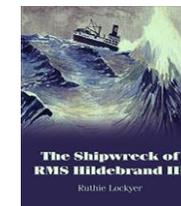
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**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> October 10:00am-1:00pm Board Game Café – Free**

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> October – 2:30-3:30pm Singing for Memories** – Join staff to sing favourites from the '50s, '60s and '70s. Everyone can sing - suitable for all, especially those with some memory loss. Tea/coffee on arrival. Free of charge but contact the library to book your place or email: heather.rodenhurst@shropshire.gov.uk

**Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> October 10:30am -12:30pm** – Carer's Support Drop-in

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> October 11:00am – The Shipwreck of RMS Hildebrand III.** Author Ruthie Lockyer talks about her Book, detailing her experiences as a young passenger on a shipwreck. Event to include a special screening of a 45-minute documentary made about the wreck, plus a Q&A opportunity **£3 per person- contact library for details**



### Whittington Parish Council News, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August Meeting

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harvey, Bromley and Johnson.

**KEY ITEMS:** Councillor Davis reported that there are issues with the small glider, and the platforms for the glider in the play area on Fitzwarine Drive. The recent weather has escalated the rotting of the platform board on the small climber and there is now a small gap between the frame and the platform which has been taped over as an intermediary precaution. Although the area had been taped off people almost immediately removed it. Ray Parry Playgrounds have been out to inspect and have quoted for replacement boarding. It was noted that the unit may be approaching the end of its useful life as some on the main posts have cracked in excess of the 8.6 mm limit allowing for possible finger traps. These may close-up as/when dry weather ensues. The rot to the fixings of the glider platforms has also escalated in the extreme weather, however these will not fall as they are supported beneath. The annual ROSPA inspection report will take place in early September. Councillor Davis will make weekly checks to closely monitor for any further deterioration. Council will consider the report when it is received and should it highlight issues that pose a risk the Clerk is to be delegated responsibility

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to approve the quote for replacements to the decks and steps. Issues extending beyond the decks and steps, splits in post, the Council will need to take the unit out of service, depending on the severity of the risk, and consider a replacement unit. The ground level under the toddler slide will be monitored until the inspector's comments are received; a top-up to raise the level may be required along with a possible levelling out of the ground where the logs have been removed. The glider platforms will also be monitored and Councillor Davis may be able to carry out some work to secure the fixings.

**POLICE REPORT:** Assault (3); Criminal Damage (2); Stalking/Harassment (3); Crime Unlisted (3); Public Order (1); Commercial Burglary (1) and Vehicle Interference (1).

#### **Your Local Police Officer and Community Support Officers Contact**

**Numbers:** Local Police Officer: - PC 3718 Kate Le'Clere – 07870219518  
Police Community Support Officers: - PCSO 6412 Dave Hughes – 07870219190; and PCSO 40279 Pete Roberts – 07870219019

**About your Team:** Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community. An investment in mobile tablet style computers enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbour-hoods. Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high-quality service however you contact us - in person (on the street, at community bases and at Partners and Communities Together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.

**Get in touch** - 📞 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime

✉️ oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

🌐 www.westmercia.police.uk



@Oscops - Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

In the event of a Police emergency call 999 for urgent attention; or ring 101 for non-emergency calls. The Police mobile numbers above will only be answered if the Officer is on duty. If your call is not answered please leave your name, number and a brief message; officers will respond at their earliest convenience when next on duty.

**Planning Applications:** a) To note recent planning decisions published by Shropshire Council. I. Reference: 22/02731/VAR (validated 13/06/22) Oak Mill Cottage, Whittington Rd, Gobowen Proposal: Variation of condition no. 3 (external materials) attached to planning permission reference 21/03457/FUL to allow for revised materials. Decision: Grant permission  
II. Reference: 18/05391/OUT (validated 03/12/18) Land to the north of Whittington Rd, Park Hall Proposal: Outline application for the erection of industrial units, B1, B2 and B8, uses to include access. Decision: Grant permission.  
III. Reference: 22/02923/FUL (validated 24/06/22) Bryn-Y-Plentyn, Middleton Proposal: Erection of 1 x 40m to hub, 67m to tip, wind turbine with control box and all associated works. Decision: Withdrawn

b) Consider the following Planning Applications: I. Reference: 2/03586/TCA (validated: 05/08/22) The Chestnuts, Station Road **Proposal:** Fell to ground level 1no Holm Oak within Whittington Conservation Area – It was RESOLVED to object with the following comments:

The Parish Council object to this application because the evidence provided does not indicate that the trees are in poor condition. They are in a conservation zone and are considered a benefit to the entrance to the village.

**II. Reference:** 22/03638/TCA The Threshings, 8 Donnett Mews **Proposal:** To coppice 2no. Silver Birch and maintain growth at eye level height within Whittington Conservation Area. The Parish Council have no comments to make on this application.

**III. Reference:** 22/03686/FUL (validated 11/08/22) Vine Cottage, 7 Top Street **Proposal:** Erection of a two-storey infill extension and single-storey rear extension along with internal reconfiguration The Parish Council have no comments to make on this application.

**IV: Reference:** 22/02588/FUL (validated 21/06/22) 10 Western Avenue **Proposal:** Erection of first floor rear extension (resubmission) The Parish Council have no comments to make on this application.

**Other Matters:** Options for the 2022 Festive Lighting Display were discussed and the following considered: 4 column displays in the church yard as in previous years; more column decorations in Park Hall. Request a cut tree for the green by the car park,

**Next meeting:** – This will be face-to-face meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm in the Senior Citizens' Hall with limited space for members of the

public wishing to attend. Future meeting dates were agreed and will be published on the Parish Council website.

The Agendas for forthcoming meetings are available 3 clear days before the meeting, either on the Parish Council Website or the two Parish Noticeboards, one in Park Hall and one outside the School. The full minutes (in draft form) can be read on line two days after each meeting, <https://whittingtonpc.com>, or via a copy from the Clerk Amy Jones. Tel: 01691 829571 email: [clerk@whittingtonpc.com](mailto:clerk@whittingtonpc.com)

**Jill Whitby**

~~~~~  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY – SUNDAY TIMES**

The Sunday Times newspaper was first published in the UK on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1822 as a separate newspaper to The Times which was founded in 1785. The Sunday Times had a female editor as early as 1894 and went on to pioneer the publication of large illustrations, book serialisations, separate sections and the first colour supplement in 1962.



~~~~~  
**THE TREEHOUSE AT PITCHFORD HALL**

This treehouse, possibly the oldest in the world, is circa 17th Century in origin was first mentioned in 1692 and was supported entirely by the large leaved lime tree in which it sits. Styled as a half-timbered building, like Pitchford Hall itself, it was restored in 1760 and renovated again in 1980. Now, because of its age the tree is held up by metal supports and wires, to ensure that the treehouse remains standing. A part glazed door opens into the tree house to reveal a carved moulded cornice ceiling, stripped oak floor and gothic windows on all sides. Queen Victoria visited the hall in 1832, at the age of 13; she climbed into the treehouse from where she witnessed the local hunt and later wrote in her diary that the hall was “A curious looking but very comfortable hall. It is striped black and white, and in the shape of a cottage.”

Pitchford Hall itself is Grade I listed, and was first mentioned in the Domesday Book (1081-1086) but is believed to date to well before the Norman Conquest. There is a section of Watling Street running through the estate; an ancient trackway paved by the Romans that ran from ports in Kent, through Canterbury and London, all the way to Wroxeter, just six and half

miles away. In 1284, the house was recorded as being in the possession of the De Pykeford family, with the Crusader Geoffrey De Pykford recorded as Lord of the Manor in 1272. he built the Church of St Michael which stands near the manor today, and contains an oak statue of him. The De Pykford family had to sell the estate to the church in 1330 to pay debts. In 1473 one Thomas Ottley bought the Manor of Pitchford, with his descendent Adam Ottley, a wool merchant, building the building that stands today. At some point in the latter half of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, when Roman Catholics were being persecuted for their beliefs, a Priest’s Hole was installed and it was then further expanded and extensively rebuilt in the 1870s and 80s, by its then current owner, who included replacement windows, baths and indoor plumbing. Despite all these alterations the house’s drawing room remained untouched, and its panelling and ceiling, amongst the finest of their type, date back to 1626.



There are many who have claimed to have seen a ghost at Pitchford; the current owner’s great grandmother claimed to have seen a ghost in the house, and one of her maids claimed to have seen some cavaliers in the garden somewhere. More than 100 people have claimed to have had a whiff of the imported, very pungent cigarillos smoked by Robin Grant, a previous owner; and this has happened in multiple parts of the Hall, at various times of the day or night. Robin has also variously been ‘seen’ in the pantry, in the North Lodge, going up the Hall’s staircase and always wearing the same clothes. One workman, at the Hall for three weeks, claimed to have seen three other ghosts:

1. A little old lady, wearing a sort of dressing-gown, who came out of the middle bathroom on the landing on the first floor and proceeded to potter into a bedroom.
2. A man in a black cloak, with a large hat with a plume of feathers, and some sort of armour underneath going up the staircase – he thought he was a

Cavalier.

3. A woman, tallish, who walked into the kitchen and on into the laundry room, via the ante-kitchen.

This same man disliked working in the library claiming there was a bad-tempered ghost in one corner, and that the ghost wanted him to "go away". The housekeeper also had unpleasant feelings about this same ghost, as did a cleaning lady; both believed he was unhappy and that they were disturbing his peace and that he wanted them "to beggar off and to leave him in peace". One visitor claimed to see various people in almost a dozen different rooms in the house; a boy and girl, a woman, a man of a pompous and overbearing character, a very, very, happy elderly woman, an extremely unhappy young woman and a red-faced tweedy, man wearing breeches amongst them.

Victoria is not the only member of the Royal Family to have come to Pitchford; in 1935 the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) visited. During WWII the Hall was one of the pre-prepared country retreats selected to house the Royal Family in the event of an invasion of London.



"Never mind, let's just be happy that Baz came to church in the first place."

## WHITTINGTON ORGANISATIONS

**CRICKET/BOWLING CLUB SECRETARY:** Tel:830901  
Jacqui Whitley – jacquiwhitley@yahoo.com

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Ian Chalmers  
Ianwenachalmers@hotmail.com

**BOWLING SECRETARY:** Hannah Hampson  
whittingtonbowlssec@outlook.com

**TREASURER:** grahamhumphreys63@gmail.com Tel:622385

**COMMUNITY CENTRE BOOKING SECRETARY:**  
Mrs Kath Griffiths Tel:662116

### SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR WHITTINGTON AND WEST FELTON:

Mr Stephen Charmley, The Coppers, Park Street, Oswestry SY11 2HF  
e.mail:Steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk –www.stevecharmley.co.uk  
Tel: 07870280747

### WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL:

Amy Jones (Clerk to the Council) Tel: 829571  
Held the fourth Tuesday in the month – clerk@whittingtonpc.com  
http://www.whittingtonpc.com

**WHITTINGTON YOUTH CLUB:** (Facebook page: Whittington Youth). Meets Thursday evening 7:00pm – 8:30pm in the Senior Citizens' Hall; entry fee £2. Activities for 10-16-year-olds supervised by qualified youth workers and activity coaches from The New Saints FC Foundation Ltd. Telephone 01691 889791 or email: info@tnsfcfoundation.org.uk

**FRIENDS OF WHITTINGTON CEMETERY:** Working parties are held throughout the year – we are always grateful for any help  
Sally Leppanen Tel: 658163 Mob: 07835338032 sally@leppanen.co.uk  
Mike Brunt Tel: 01691 661874 or Mob: 07855772527

### BAPTISM SECRETARY:

Mrs Margery Mellor, 10 Boot Street, Whittington Tel:681036  
e.mail: i.mellor@tiscali.co.uk

## WHITTINGTON ORGANISATIONS

### **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE:**

Second Wednesday in the month in the Community Centre

Secretary: Mrs Sandy Forde

Tel:654610

### **WHITTINGTON CASTLE PRESERVATION TRUST:**

Chairman: Jonjo Evans

Tel:671300

Castle Manager: Ms Kimberley Powell

Tel:662500

**BELL RINGING:** Details from Brian Rothera

Tel:657778

### **BROWNIES, GUIDES:**

6:00-7:15pm Thursday except in school holidays in the Community Centre

Brown Owl: Mrs D. Gough, 2 Newnes Barns, Ellesmere

Tel:624390

### **BEAVER, CUBS & SCOUT INFORMATION:**

Group Scout Leader + Akela: Mrs B Cassidy, 2 Heather Bank, Gobowen

Tel: 07907972657 or 01691 658016

Beavers 6-8yrs Tues 6.00-7.15pm; Cubs 8-11yrs Fri 5.45- 7.30pm

Scouts 11-14 yrs and Explorer Scouts 14-18 Fri 7.45-9.30pm

### **WHITTINGTON UNDER FIVES GROUP:**

Sessional and extended hours Carer and Toddler Sessions

Leaders: Dawn and Mandy

Tel:670127

Meet in the Community Centre 9:00am – 3:00pm

### **SENIOR CITIZENS:**

Monday Whist Drive, Thursday Coffee Morning

All meetings in the Senior Citizens Hall

Secretary: Mrs Gillian Roberts, 4 Western Avenue

Tel:662236

### **MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE:**

The Mobile Library will stop in the cul-de-sac by the Three Trees/White Lion on alternate Tuesdays between 2:55pm – 3:55pm.

**CHURCH WEBSITE:** [www.whittingtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.whittingtonchurch.org.uk)

**MESSY CHURCH:** <https://m.facebook.com/stjohnthebaptistwhittington/>

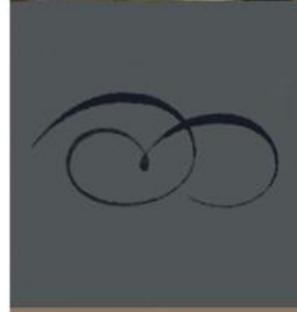
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