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Photograph on the front is of Wenlock Edge

Contents of "The Ripple" printed by Maxwell's Printing

# THE RIPPLE

March 2023

50p





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<b>Eco Warriors</b> First Saturday of every month	
<b>Craft Group</b> First Tuesday of every month	
<b>Lancia Car Stop-Over</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> March 11.30-13.30	<b>Plant Hunter Fair</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> July
<b>Plant Hunter Fair</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> April Good Friday	<b>Ugly Duckling 2pm</b> & <b>Merry Wives of Windsor 7pm</b> Folksey Theatre 27 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Eco Fair</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>Whittington Village Fete</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>SEIGE!</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Handmade Craft Fair</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Twelfth Night Festival Players</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Multi Period Re-enactment</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Napoleonic Re-enactment 85eme</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Halloween Parade</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> October



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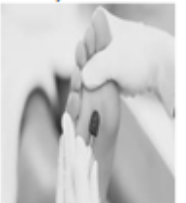
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Welsh Frankton	09:06	10:06	11:06	13:16	14:06	16:51
Narrowboat Inn	09:07	10:07	11:07	13:07	14:07	16:52
A495-Hinford Junction	09:09	10:09	11:09	13:09	14:09	16:54
Whittington, Penybryn Avenue	09:11	10:11	11:11	13:11	14:11	16:56
Whittington, Three Trees	09:12	10:12	11:12	13:12	14:12	16:57
Drenwydd	09:14	10:14	11:14	13:14	14:14	16:59
Park Hall, Inglis Road	09:15	10:15	11:15	13:15	14:15	17:00
Orthopaedic Hospital	09:17	10:17	11:17	13:17	14:17	17:02
Oswestry, Jasmine Gardens	09:21	10:21	11:21	13:21	14:21	17:06
Oswestry, Iceland Bus Stop	09:23	10:23	11:23	13:23	14:23	17:08

Oswestry, Iceland Bus Stop	09:30	10:30	11:30	13:30	14:30	17:15
Oswestry, Jasmine Gardens	09:32	10:32	11:32	13:32	14:32	17:17
Orthopaedic Hospital	09:36	10:36	11:36	13:36	14:36	17:21
Park Hall, Inglis Road	09:38	10:38	11:38	13:38	14:38	17:23
Drenwydd	09:39	10:39	11:39	13:39	14:39	17:24
Whittington, Three Trees	09:41	10:41	11:41	13:41	14:41	17:26
Whittington, Penybryn Avenue	09:42	10:42	11:42	13:42	14:42	17:27
A495-Hinford Junction	09:44	10:44	11:44	13:44	14:44	17:29
Narrowboat Inn	09:46	10:46	11:46	13:46	14:46	17:31
Welsh Frankton	09:47	10:47	11:47	13:47	14:47	17:32
Ellesmere Cross Street	09:53	10:53	11:53	13:53	14:53	17:38



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### SUNDAY SERVICES:

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

11:00am 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Informal Family Service

11:00am Other Sundays Parish Communion

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

**RECTOR:** Reverend Suzan Williams [Tel:674948](tel:674948)  
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March 2023

## **Rectors Ramblings**

Over the last week we have seen and heard the most tragic news following a horrific earthquake that has affected North Turkey and areas of Syria, including the region of Aleppo, following a catastrophic earthquake that registered 7.8 on the Richter scale. Nearly a week after the tragic event the death toll has risen to 33,000 and is expected to double. That depth and magnitude of loss is almost impossible to imagine and overwhelming in reality to respond to. Many charities are appealing for donations, financial and otherwise.

This last Sunday, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent, as I sit to write my contribution to the March Ripple our gospel reading came from Matthew 6:25-34, it is a passage titled ‘Do not worry’ I cannot help but contemplate what that means for the people of Turkey and Syria right now.

In our monthly Messy Church gatherings, we are beginning to explore the Lord’s Prayer; Luke 11:1-4 frames it slightly differently in that it’s the disciples that ask the question of Jesus. What comfort can be gleaned from Jesus words, when asked by his disciples to teach them to pray.

I believe they have watched Jesus closely, seeing how he modelled a life which followed a different way of being. Retreating to a quiet place to reset and recentre himself. For Jesus, it was in prayer that he brought his frustrations, his challenges, his burdens and the burdens he felt for others to his Heavenly Father. So often when Jesus acted, he responded from a place of compassion, being moved to respond and help those in need. And I wonder if we need to follow that example.

We live in an age when we can end up suffering with what is now termed ‘Compassion fatigue’. So what we mustn’t do is allow ourselves to be neutralised to inaction, but instead be activated, moved, to react and act to support in any way we realistically can.

It may not feel like much at the time but if we all do our bit then we can make an enormous difference to those in need.

Every Blessing

Suzan





# March 2023

## DIARY

### 1 SAINT DAVID'S DAY

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

2 9:30am Holy Communion

4 9:30am Last Happiness Lab in church

### 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

11:00am Informal Family Service

6 10:30am-12:00 noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)

7 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church

8 7:00pm Whittington WI meets in the Community Centre

9 9:30am Holy Communion

11 7:30pm "BIRDSONG" A concert of music by William Byrd  
in Aid of Whittington Music Festival by the  
Scholars and Gentlemen: further details page 7

### 12 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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

13 **LAST DAY** for magazine material for the March edition of "The  
Ripple" all material to Anne Ward, 5 Boot Street,  
Whittington – eaw4@btinternet.com

cont... 10:30am-12:00 noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)

14 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church

16 9:30am Holy Communion

### 19 SAINT JOSEPH OF NAZARETH FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MOTHERING SUNDAY

11:00am A Special Family Holy Communion Service –  
lasting no more than 40 minutes followed by coffee  
and Simnel cake. During the service the children  
will distribute flowers to their mothers and the  
ladies of the congregation

6:30pm Informal Service

20 10:30am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)

21 2:00-3:00pm Parise and Play in church

23 9:30am Holy Communion

12:00noon Soup Lunch at the Rectory; further details page 14

24 6:30pm Family Bingo in the Senior Citizens' Hall in aid of  
the Therapy Stars Foundation; further details page 24

### 26 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – SUMMER TIMES BEGIN

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

27 10:30am-12:00 noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)

28 12:00noon Whittington Senior Citizens monthly lunch at the  
White Lion; further details page 9-11

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

30 9:30am Holy Communion

**Extracts from the Parish Registers  
for the month of January 2023**



**REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

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

14<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Sylvia Mary Haigh Dyke  
aged 92 of Rosehill Close

**CHILDREN’S SOCIETY BOXES**

The boxes have been emptied and the money counted – £517.00. This will now be added to the £301.00 donated at the Christingle service making the total sent to the Children’s Society to £818.00 so a very big thank you to those who gave so generously.



The Society helps children of all faiths and none, including children at risk on the streets, disabled children, young refugees, young carers and those within the youth justice system. Through its parliamentary work and research, it seeks to influence policy and perceptions at all levels so young people have a better chance in life. Would you like to support this work? Then please contact me for a box.

**Mike Phipps 01691 670940**

**SWING INTO SPRING**



Our congratulations to the members of The Very Nice Production Company who gave such a lively and enjoyable evening of music on the 28<sup>th</sup> January; and our thanks as well to all those who made mince pies, served the drinks and made up our audience. A few of us were up on our feet dancing at the back of church whilst others clapped and waved their arms from the pews. This very enjoyable evening raised £920 for the Church Restoration Fund and we hope that the Company will return again.

**The Churchwardens**

Seen in a church pew-sheet: Next Friday the church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility. Do come along!

**LENT SOUP LUNCHES**



We are now in the season of Lent and the church is looking for volunteers to host a Soup Lunch. It doesn’t matter if you can only accommodate three or four people, everyone enjoys these social occasions.

The cost will be £7.50 per person and will include a ticket for the raffle, with the draw being made at the last lunch. Whilst these lunches have traditionally been recognised as a frugal meal, no-one ever seems to go home feeling hungry!

Would you be willing to open up your home this year? If so, then please contact one of the Churchwardens and if not then why not come along to someone else’s by signing up on the lists at the back of church.

**BYRDSONG”**

**A Concert of Music by William Byrd**

**In Aid of Whittington Music Festival**

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**7:30pm**

**In Whittington Parish Church**

**Presented by: The Scholars & Gentlemen**

**Director: Mike Donkin**

**Tickets: £12 (under 18 free)  
(Wine and soft drinks available – by donation)**

**Tickets available from Rowanthorn, Oswestry,  
choir members or on the door**

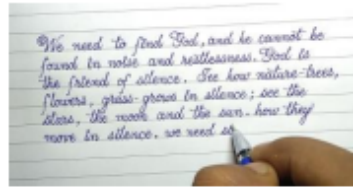


### Regular Giving Envelopes



The end of the financial year is fast approaching and you will have noticed that the envelopes in your box are rapidly decreasing. New boxes will soon be available at the back of church; please be sure to pick yours up. If you have chosen to alter the way you make your donation, for example by switching to direct debit, let me know so that we do not over-order boxes. If you do not use the envelope scheme but would like to, then do get in touch. If you are unable to attend services regularly then by using an envelope each week and putting them on the plate when next you attend, you can keep track of your gift. If you pay tax then your gift can be increased without additional cost to yourself by filling in a Gift Aid form.

Sue Dyke - 650831



### CAN YOU HELP?

Ever since the In Memoria book was donated to Whittington Church entries have been made by Mrs Joyce Howard; she now wishes to pass this task on to a new

volunteer. Can you help please? What is needed is someone with clear legible handwriting, willing to make entries on an as requested basis.

Could this be you? Please contact Anne Ward on 01691 672838 for further information.

Trustees of St John the Baptist Church

### CONGRATULATIONS

We extend warmest congratulations to Ieuan and Mary Jones who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Each Slow Dusk – by DAVE ANDREWS**

A murder mystery set in Oswestry! A body is discovered at the foot of the Wilfred Owen statue in Cae Glas Park in the middle of town. Detective Chief Inspector Gary Probert - temporarily transferred, against his will, from Telford to Oswestry - unexpectedly finds himself heading up a baffling investigation.



DCI Probert is determined to solve the crime before his superiors call him back to Telford at Christmas but time is running out for him. In the meantime, he starts to fall in love with his new home. And then there's his new running partner, the attractive Elizabeth with her lovely hair and firm views.

Dave Andrews is Reader & Writer in Residence at Oswestry Library. *Each Slow Dusk* is his twelfth book and his story-telling experience certainly shows. He cleverly combines a carefully-worked crime novel with a tale of growing romance as DCI Probert tries to come to terms with his past. A masterful story and it's a delight to read about familiar landmarks in a book which is a very positive advert for our town.



Dave says, 'The idea of writing a crime novel set in Oswestry came out of the blue at a time when I was actually working on two quite different projects. I've written other books connected with the town, including *Wilfred Owen: Poet of Oswestry* and *The Oswestry Round*, and I was keen to portray the town through the eyes of an outsider as newcomers often see things we locals sometimes take for granted. I had great fun writing it and I'm already planning a sequel where a body is discovered in the moat at Whittington Castle.'

£9.99 Available from Booka, Rowanthorn, Oswestry Library, Oswestry TIC and other outlets or directly from the author at [daveauthor54@gmail.com](mailto:daveauthor54@gmail.com)

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

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March is the date for this month's lunch at the White Lion; the cost remains at £10 for the two-course meal plus tea or coffee. An advance reservation is required, and once made it must be paid for as the club will be charged. Both members and non-members are welcome, please contact ME on 01691 662236 if you wish to join us.

We have several bookshelves in the small room at the hall full of novels available for people to borrow, please take a look, a small donation of 20p would be appreciated.

The afternoon whist sessions will restart on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March**, weather permitting, at **1:30pm** and the charge is just £1.50. If you are a whist player, even if you have not played for some time, please come along and join in, you will be made very welcome by all; these sessions are run by Liz Corrin. The evening session, at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday in the month, has now been going for several months with a gradual increase in people attending; eight tables being in play in February, and there is room for more if you would like to come along. The cost is £2.50 and includes tea/coffee and biscuits; the organisers are Carol and Derek Pope – and is, along with Monday afternoons, open to everyone, not just club members.

The weekly Thursday coffee mornings continue to be very well attended, we have a good natter and catch up and again club membership is not a requirement. Come along any time after 10:00am, we go home when the washing-up has been completed! We ask for just £2.00 to cover our electricity bill, not a lot for a coffee, or two, together with a biscuit. If there is a birthday to celebrate then cakes and a tippie are usually on offer. This is a very friendly gathering plus you can save on your heating for an hour or so.

Also available are line dance classes between 7:30 – 9:00pm on Monday evenings at £6 per session (upper/beginner/improvers); contact Steve Mason on 07963662426 for details. He is always happy to welcome new dancers and those that may not have danced for some time. On Wednesday 1:30 – 2:30pm Sonya holds Exercise Classes; great fun what ever your age or capability. Exercises can be done sitting or standing; the cost is £5 per class and is great fun; we all go home laughing.

For children the hall is used by Eleanor Moss for junior ballet classes after school on Thursday afternoons and byTNS for Youth Club Meetings on Thursday evenings; both of these run during term time.

Once again there was an impromptu brunch at the White Lion on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen club members enjoyed baps with bacon and egg or sausage and egg plus a coffee or tea. We have been considering doing this on a regular basis, if the Lion can put up with a rowdy gang of re-cycled teenagers. I apologise again for not being able to advertise this event but if you would like to know when they are going to be held please let me have your name and I can keep you informed.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to one of our oldest and staunchest club

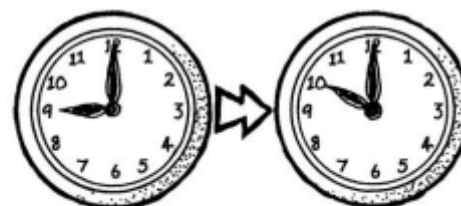
members, Mary Dyke sadly passed away in January. Mary was an active member of the committee for many years, and even when unable to attend meetings and functions, she insisted on being kept informed of what was being planned via her daughter Susan. Mary and Frances Savage, were long time members together, and I expect Frances was waiting for Mary by the pearly gates, with the kettle and scones waiting. R.I.P Mary.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

- 11<sup>th</sup> April 2:00pm Annual General Meeting followed by Easter Tea.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> May (Mon) 12:00noon Celebration of King Charles III's coronation – a ploughman's lunch.
  - 30<sup>th</sup> May Trip to the Cotebrook Shire Horse Centre, Tarporley – see up to 30 horses along with red squirrels, foxes and other residents; plus a coffee/gift shop – £30 for coach and entry
  - 20<sup>th</sup> June A tour of Anglesey – coach £25
  - 11<sup>th</sup> July Visit to New Brighton – coach £25
  - 15<sup>th</sup> August Visit to Black County Museum, Dudley – coach £15, museum entrance £15 and canal boat trip £10 – total £40
  - 12<sup>th</sup> September Visit to Llandudno – coach £25
  - October (TBA) Harvest lunch
  - November (TBA) Fish and chip lunch plus a coffee and mince pie morning
- Gillian Roberts (Secretary) 01691 662236**

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**EASTER FLOWERS**

From **Mothering Sunday on 19<sup>th</sup> March until Maundy Thursday on 6<sup>th</sup> April** donations towards Easter flowers can be placed in the basket on the table at the back of church, or given to the Rector or Churchwardens. It has been the custom, for many years, to have Madonna Lilies which symbolise new life at Easter. If you are new to the Parish and would like to become involved in arranging the flowers in church then please contact one of the Churchwardens, new volunteers are always welcome.



**CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR AT BEDTIME ON SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

## CAMPANOLGY – or THE ART OF BELL-RINGING

How will you mark the day when King Charles III and the Queen Consort are crowned on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May in Westminster Abbey? An age-old tradition to mark such an event is to ring church bells. There are about 38,000 church bells but only 30,000 ringers in the U.K.



If you live in the Whittington area and are perhaps someone who used to ring, but do not do so anymore, would you like to join a group to mark this special occasion, one many of us will not have experienced in our lifetime.

Then please contact Gill Roberts on: 01691 653813 to discuss.

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## QUARTER DAY – LADY DAY – 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH

Lady Day is the traditional name of the Feast of the Annunciation, celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> March; it commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, when he informed her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The event is known in the 1549 prayer book of Edward VI as “The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary” but is now termed “The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary”. Occasionally the day could fall on Good Friday, a coincidence that is considered, by some, as bad luck. An old saying: “If our Lord falls in Our Lady’s lap, England beware of some mishap!” In this case the observance of Lady Day is moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter Sunday.

Quarter Days were established in the Middle Ages when most people were illiterate and there were few calendars, making religious holidays much easier for people to be guided by. England has four quarter days of which Lady Day is the first, when the countryside cycle sees the arrival of Spring; followed by Midsummer on June 24<sup>th</sup> (Also St John the Baptist Day); Michaelmas on September 29<sup>th</sup> (the Feast of St Michael) and December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas; all close to religious holidays and solstices or equinoxes.

Lady Day was used as the first day of the legal year but also the end of the fiscal and tax year from 1155 until 1752 when January 1<sup>st</sup> became the New Year’s Day on the adoption of the Gregorian calendar. Our tax year still

ends on April 5<sup>th</sup>, or “Old Lady Day”, i.e., Lady Day adjusted for the eleven ‘lost days’ of the calendar change in 1752 from the Julian calendar.

Being the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the year, it was traditionally when year-long contracts between landowners and tenant farmers would begin and end. Farmers time of “entry” into new farms and onto new fields was often this day. As a result, farming families who were changing farms would travel from the old farm to the new one on Lady Day. Farm leases always lasted at least a year since it took that long to complete a full cycle of farm operations but multi-year leases were common. The rent was paid yearly on Lady Day or on each quarter day. Goose farmers used the day to schedule the first plucking of their geese; the down was plucked 4 or 5 times a year between Lady Day and Michaelmas to give the geese time to grow new down to protect them during the winter. The goose wing feathers were only harvested once a year, on Lady Day, and used for quill pens.

The significance of Lady Day is marked in some of the novels of Thomas Hardy, including *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*, *Far from the Maddening Crowd*

and his 1884 essay “The Dorset Farm Labourer”. Hiring Fairs were held each quarter day and Lady Day was used particularly in the hiring of domestic staff. Participants would often arrive with some implement to indicate the sort of position they were hoping for. Whilst some servants were paid on quarter days others were only paid yearly – on Lady Day; making it the day when debts were settled and interest on investments was paid.



*Three farm labourers waiting to be hired  
– Samson Towgood Roch*

Leases for homes and other non-agricultural properties also began mainly on Lady Day, especially for fashionable homes in London leased by those who wanted to be in town for the social season. Six-month leases from Lady Day to Michaelmas were common for these properties with payment being made in a single transaction up front or in two payments on the quarter days.

Other traditions associated with the day included not lighting fires, beyond

the kitchen (and nursery if there were young children) after Lady Day as the winter chill had largely passed and as the days were getting lighter candles were often no longer used at night. Being a day set aside for prayer by the church few celebratory customs are associated with Lady Day but one that did is eating waffles. Said to have resulted from a big misunderstanding, in Swedish, Our Lady Day, or Vårfrudagen, when said very quickly, or in certain Swedish dialects sounds very much like Våffeldagen, which translates to “Waffle Day” leading to the Scandinavian tradition of eating waffles on this day.

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## **SOUP LUNCH AT THE RECTORY,**

**AT 12:00 NOON ON THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH**

**CONTACT SUZAN FOR MORE  
DETAILS AND TO BOOK YOUR  
PLACE:**



revwilliams1991@icloud.com – 01691 674948

**WHITTINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

This month our WI proved that we are definitely on the up! Despite some apologies due to illness, we had 30 lovely ladies come to our meeting, including some new and very welcome visitors.

After dealing with some matters arising and announcements, we went straight into our talk “The Home Apothecary”, by me, Louise Idoux. There were three main subjects; sleep, coughs and digestion, all of which are familiar problems for most of us at some time or other. We had a clearly explained workshop on how to make certain safe and easy remedies at home: a sleep pillow (from an odd sock!), cough syrup in a jam-jar and an after-dinner infusion. Everyone was able to make their own and take home their remedies. Not everyone tasted the infusion, but those that did were pleasantly surprised. The vote of thanks was given by Pam Wright, our newest member, who seems to have fitted right in.

This was then followed by our tea; homemade cakes, quiche, devilled eggs, sausage rolls and cups of tea, coffee and herbal tea (!) and some enthusiastic conversation. Our swap table this month was jewellery, so we brought that which we no longer wanted and took new pieces for a change. The swap table leftovers are then either kept for the next WI table top sale or donated to charity.

There were some lovely prizes in the raffle: Raspberry gin, chocolates, wine, hip flask and biscuits, to mention but a few! Our monthly competition “A Herb in any Medium” was well supported with some lovely entries and was won by Julie Sheffield, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Glenys Brind and 3<sup>rd</sup> Barbara Molesworth. The competition is all very good natured and is for fun rather than showing off (unless you want to).

Next month is our spring show, which is quite an event and a bit more competitive, although I like to think of it as a way of being recognised for having a skill/flare. There are various categories including cooking, craft and gardening etc., something for everyone. We bring in external judges, ply them with a lavish tea and then announce the results during our meeting after they've left. It really does bring a frisson of excitement to the room.

If you are interested in enquiring about the WI, just come along on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm to the village Community Centre and expect a warm welcome.

**Louise Idoux**

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**MARCH at Whittington Castle –**

**The Castle is open daily 9:00am – 4:00pm**

**4<sup>th</sup> March 10:30 – 12:00 noon Eco-Warriors –**  
Join our Eco Warrior Linus for our  
monthly green fingered children's club.

There are different activities each month so dress appropriately for the weather and all participants can warm up with a complementary hot chocolate at the end of the session. No booking needed, meet at kitchen@thecastle on the day. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

**7<sup>th</sup> March craft@thecastle** Whether you patch-work, paint, scrap book, sketch or knit, do it with others at our welcoming informal craft club. Both novices and experts share their



skills. Find inspiration or do your own thing– there is always plenty of coffee, cake and laughter. Everyone welcome. Small fee applies.

**17<sup>th</sup> March** **Ghost Stories at the Castle** – Brave the creaky floors of the Tudor cottage and enjoy an evening telling of M R James’ favourite ghost stories “A School Story” and “The Rose Garden” recited by Justin Soper. Not for the easily spooked. Doors open 7:00pm, curtain 7:30pm Tickets £12, Members £8 direct from the castle. NO unaccompanied children under 15

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

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

**C A M E O – COME AND MEET EACH OTHER**  
**in WHITTINGTON PARISH CHURCH EVERY MONDAY**



**10:30AM – 12:00 NOON**

**Come along to our new, weekly, get together 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**

**AN AFTERNOON IN THE GARDEN**

1. From a garden clump of spearmint pot up some running roots for the greenhouse or garden frame to provide fresh roots for your Easter lamb dinner; water well.
2. Chit early potatoes on a window ledge for short green shoots ready to plant out later in March; egg boxes fit nicely.
3. Mosses have become the in-word for helping to reduce pollution taking their stance from Japanese gardeners, moss ‘trees’ and moss roofs absorb soot and dust, thus taking in carbon. Moss also acts as a sponge retaining water, and cooling the atmosphere through evaporation.
4. For gardeners who dislike moss in a lawn, the advice is mow less

frequently, and on a higher cut. The lower the cut the more favourable it is to mossy growth because it reduces the vigour of the grasses.

**Flower of the month: Double Primroses** (Primula Flore-Plena) These plants known since Elizabethan times are very interesting botanically. Some with long green sepals enclosing the petals are known as ‘Jack in the Garden’ and others with double sepals are known as ‘Hose in Hose’. Grown in a sunny or light shaded position with plenty of humus, they will thrive and may be divided after flowering; water well in a dry summer.



**Tree of the month: Common Fir** (Abies Nordmanniana) Grows up to 230 feet in height, a closely branched evergreen tree which grows in a pyramid shape and is native to Turkey; the cones are elongated like the spruce are often calls firs. The needle leaves if removed leave a small round scar whereas the spruce scar is peg-like and the tree grown for its timber.



**POPPY APPEAL ORGANISING ROLE**



Each year thousands of wonderful volunteers descend on high streets, train stations and local supermarkets across the country to help raise vital funds during the Poppy Appeal. This role involves the organisation, planning, and delivery of the Poppy Appeal within Oswestry, Gobowen, Weston Rhyn, St Martins, Whittington, Kinnerley and Nescliffe. This role is suited to people who are passionate about our Armed Forces, keen to help their community take part in Remembrance and has organisational skills to put to good use.

**Poppy Box Deliveries Organiser** – This involves ordering the stock and prepping to make ready, contacting schools, businesses etc to organise delivery of poppies and collecting tins, arranging the volunteers who take out the boxes of poppies and collecting tins across the district, supplying the volunteers with paperwork for each round of deliveries, topping up stores who run out of stock, arranging for the volunteers to bring everything back



in after the appeal, once the funds are counted you then supply the volunteers with the totals to inform the local community.

All training is provided, plus the local community fundraiser is on hand to walk you through the whole process. Local volunteers who do the deliveries are in place, this is an organisational role to support the volunteers. Local knowledge, references and access to a vehicle are required. Pre-arranged expenses are paid for. For more information or to register your interest, please email Jenny Komiatis at: JKomiatis@britishlegion.org.uk

**Jenny Komiatis**  
**Community Fundraiser - Shropshire**

### Castor Oil's Uses; Old and New

Castor oil, from the castor bean, has had a chequered history and some bad press. It contains Ricin, a very toxic agent allegedly used by spies to finish off dangerous/unwanted characters with just one drop of it injected into the skin. How terrifying! Further back, during Victorian times Castor oil was taken (by the pint) as a strong purgative to induce labour or bring about a miscarriage. An unpleasant process I'm sure. For this reason, chemists have been very cautious of selling it over the counter to pregnant ladies for many years and is usually only available in tiny bottles.



Castor oil is rarely used internally these days but has some wonderful effects when safely used externally. When applied to warts, molluscum and verrucas it can be very effective to assist in their disappearance (much like the spies!). It's amazing how quickly it can work, just a small amount applied daily for up to two months. Similarly, in animals such as horses and cows with sarcoids it can be used externally as it is a similar virus that causes it.

A castor oil pack; a flannel soaked in the oil and applied externally for 20 mins or so, can be kept in the fridge and used over and over as the oil keeps for a long time. We herbalists suggest you apply this to whichever area needs it. For example; over the liver area for a liver detox, or over the lower abdominal area for shrinking fibroids. This is not an exact science, but well worth experimenting with.

Castor oil may be helpful on suspicious moles too (not the garden ones!);

Although probably not well researched enough, it seems to shrink lumps and bumps on the body. Finally, in the beauty industry it is thought to be good to grow eye lashes longer, if applied at night: who knows what more it can do for us! A trusty remedy to revisit with modern uses and if in doubt, consult your herbalist.

**Louise Idoux**

## ADVANCE NOTICE – SAVE THE CHILDREN

### **3 OPEN GARDENS IN WHITTINGTON, WITH MUSIC**

**GARDEN CROFT with a PLANT SALE**

**GABLE CROFT with REFRESHMENTS**

**+ (new) CHURCH HOUSE**

**Entertainment from: Kinnerton Morris Men  
Haslington Folk Group  
and Scottish Bagpiper Andy**



**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL &  
MON 1<sup>st</sup> MAY**

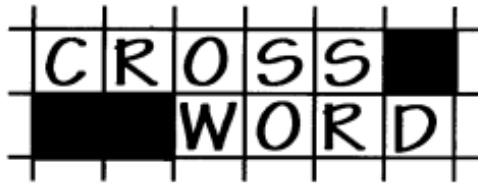
**10:30am – 5:00pm Both Days**

**ENTRANCE BY DONATION**

**Border control** – Flying home after visiting her daughter in England, a woman arranged to have her husband meet her plane in Vancouver. This meant a stop at the border crossing between the United States and Canada, where her husband was asked, “What is your reason for entering the country?” and “How long are you planning to stay?”



He replied that he was picking his wife up at the airport after her trip to England and would come straight home again. Without missing a beat, the guard asked two more questions in the same business-like tone: “And is the house clean? And are there fresh flowers on the table?”



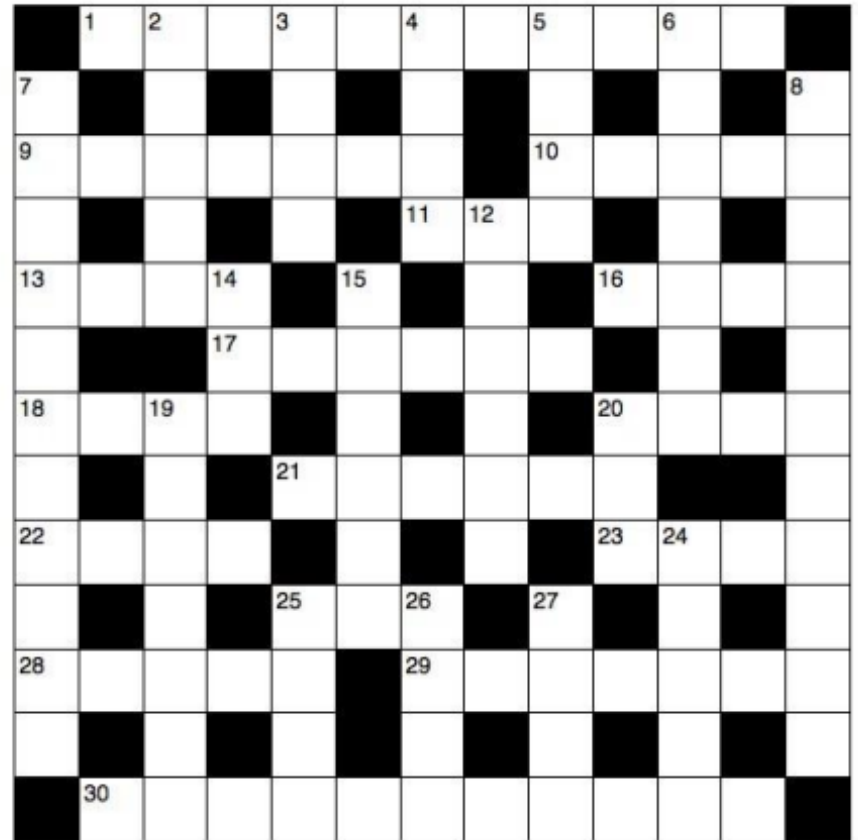
**Across:**

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes'
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7) (Esther 4:1) (3,4)

**Down:**

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6) (3)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught

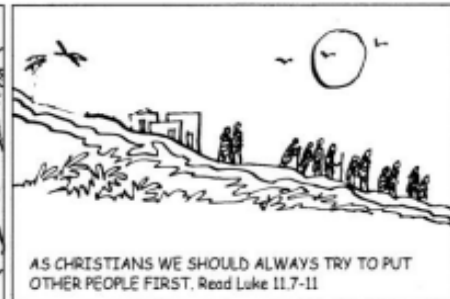
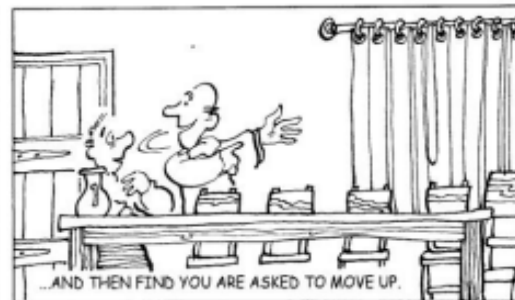
- great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4) (2,3)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



**ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY'S QUIZ**

- ACROSS:** 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.
- DOWN:** 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

## CHILDREN'S PAGE



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

A cheat's recipe! A lovely variation on the classic dish.

### LEMON MERINGUE PIE (serves 6)

For the base: 75g (3 oz) butter  
25g (1 oz) demerara sugar  
175g (6 oz) digestive biscuits, finely crushed

For the filling: 1 x 394g tin full-fat, sweetened condensed milk  
(Do not use the light version or the filling will not set)  
3 egg yolks  
Finely grated rind and juice of 2 large lemons

For the topping: 3 egg whites  
175g (6 oz) caster sugar

Oven 190°C/170° Fan/ 375°F/Gas mark 5

You will need a 23cm (9 in) round, straight-sided or fluted tart dish, about 4cm (1½ in) deep.

Place the biscuits in a plastic bag, remove the air and seal before hitting it with a rolling pin to make fine breadcrumbs – or blend in a food processor.

Melt the butter in a medium saucepan, remove the pan from the heat and stir in the sugar and biscuit crumbs.

Press the mixture into the flan dish using the back of a spoon to bring the crumbs up around the sides of the dish and smooth the base in an even layer.

To make the filling, first pour the condensed milk into a bowl, then beat in the egg yolks, lemon rind and strained juice.

The mixture will appear to thicken on standing, then loosen again as soon as it is stirred. This is caused by the combination of condensed milk and lemon juice and is nothing to worry about. Pour the mixture into the biscuit-lined dish.

Put the egg whites into a large, spotlessly clean bowl and using an electric hand whisk, whisk until they look like clouds. Add the caster sugar, a teaspoon at a time, whisking well between each addition with the electric whisk at full speed.

Spoon the meringue evenly over the tart dish to cover to the biscuit-lined edge. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until the meringue is pale golden. Set aside for about 30 minutes to allow the filling to firm up before serving warm.

## FAMILY BINGO – FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH

In the SENIOR CITIZENS' HALL



6:30pm



### In aid of Therapy Stars Foundation

LINE & HOUSE PRIZES + RAFFLE + REFRESHMENTS

The Foundation offers awards to families living in Shropshire, Cheshire or North Wales to access therapy for a child with long-term or life-limiting conditions.

Grants can also be used for their siblings. May include Physiotherapy, Occupational/ Speech/Music/

Hippotherapy/Equine/Aquatic or Hydrotherapy and Counselling.  
[www.therapystarsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.therapystarsfoundation.org.uk) (Reg.Charity:1196925)

### FRIENDS OF WHITTINGTON CEMETERY



The Friends of Whittington Cemetery would like to remind all families to remove all Christmas wreaths and decorations from the Cemetery and Garden of Remembrance as soon as possible. A work party is being organised this month to tidy the cemetery before Easter, so any wreathes on site will be removed. Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter.

Kind regards **Mike Brunt**

### BURYING THE HATCHET

We all understand that the phrase means to “make peace” with a friend, neighbour or even another country, but where does it originate from?

It is an American English idiom alluding to the figurative or literal practice of putting away weapons at the cessation of hostilities by Native Americans. According to their founding tradition, the Peacemaker story, between 1570

and 1600 five Iroquois nations, who had warred with each other for decades, came together to live in peace and harmony after Dekanawidah (the Peacemaker), born a Huron, is said to have persuaded Hiawatha, an Onondaga living among Mohawks, to advance “peace, civil authority, righteousness, and the great law” amongst the Iroquois nations. The subsequent Iroquois Confederacy brought together the Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga and Seneca tribes of upper New York state and south-eastern Canada, who came together to live in peace and harmony; burying their hatchets (tomahawks) as a symbolic gesture of peace. The Confederacy is one of the world’s oldest participatory democracies and the governing Great Council of 50 peace chiefs still meets in a longhouse today.



Europeans first became aware of the practice in 1644 with the publication of a translation of ‘Jesuit Relations’ which suggests the practice: “Proclaim that they wish to unite all the nations of the earth and to hurl the hatchet so far into the depths of the earth that it shall never again be seen in the future.” The confederacy’s constitution, the Great Law of Peace, is believed to have been a model for the U.S. Constitution, partly because Benjamin Franklin was known to have been much interested in the structure of the confederacy and partly because of the balance of power embodied in the Great Law.

The first English reference to the phrase came from Judge Samuel Sewall, who would become notorious for presiding over the Salem Witch Trials wrote in 1680: “I write to you of the Mischief the Mohawks did... they came to an agreement and buried two Axes in the Ground; one for the English another for themselves; which ceremony to them is more significant and binding than all Articles of Peace, the hatchet being a principal weapon with them.”

This ceremony would be oft repeated when peace was established with other Native American nations. In 1759 the Shawnee tribe, which had sided with the French against the English during the Seven Years War, which was now collapsing, said they would now “bury the bloody hatchet” with the English. Two years later a Burying the Hatchet Ceremony took place between the British and Mi’kmaq tribe in Nova Scotia ending more than seventy-five years of war. In 1795 when establishing the boundary of the Cherokee



Nation in South Carolina article 11 of the Hopewell Treaty reads: “The hatchet shall be forever buried, and the peace given by the United States, and friendship re-established between the said states on the one part, and all the Cherokees on the other, shall be universal; and the contracting parties shall use their utmost endeavours to maintain the peace given as aforesaid, and friendship re-established.” Then in 1926, fifty years after the Battle of

Little Bighorn Sioux Chief White Bull and General Edward Godfrey buried the hatchet at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Garryowen, Montana near to where Custer had begun his attack against the Sioux.

At the Return Day festival in Georgetown Delaware, which occurs after each election, a “burying of the hatchet” ceremony is performed by chairs of the Democratic and Republican parties. The ceremony symbolizes the two parties making peace after the election and moving on.

~~~~~  
**On the perils of moving from city to country**

The Rectory  
 St. James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Those parishioners of yours who won millions on the Lottery and moved into this parish have created quite a stir. It was perhaps a little unwise of them to tell

everyone the reason why they had become so wealthy. While most of our parishioners also do the Lottery, few would ever admit it in public. (Since your friends arrived, the entire PCC is buying ever more lottery tickets, but from the shop in the NEXT village, to try and keep it secret.)

However, your family still has much to learn about our country ways. Buying the old Dower House was impressive; and spending a small fortune re-stocking the gardens was certainly commendable. But someone should have told them about installing cattle grids. It must have been quite a shock for them to wake up one morning and find the thirty sheep from the neighbouring field had wandered in for breakfast.

Their brand-new purple Ferrari has certainly brightened up the country lanes around here. The noise it makes as it roars up behind you quite quickens the

pulse. Mrs Beamish had been suffering with low blood pressure for months; she says she is quite cured now. The Colonel, who is all for the community supporting the church, then asked if the newcomers would drive the bishop around on the day he came to do his tour of the parish. The Colonel thought that an open-topped purple Ferrari would make a great bishop-mobile; and the newcomers were so kind to agree. What a shame that they decided to accomplish the several miles of parish lanes in record time: the bishop barely even saw the several farmers that they nearly ran down. His new nickname in this parish is: The Purple Peril.

The newcomers have installed security lighting, which is understandable. But now I wonder how much sleep they are getting, as the rabbits, foxes, and badgers who live in their grounds keep it flood-lit for much of the night. Meanwhile, the Colonel is grumbling about the effect of light pollution on his young pheasants in the woods nearby.

But these little inconveniences apart, I am sure they will soon feel at home. I feel confident that by the third generation, they will be properly settled in.

**Your loving uncle, Eustace**

~~~~~  
**World Water Day is 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

We take clean water for granted. After all, when did you last turn on the tap and expect filthy water to come out? But sadly, bad water is still a daily reality for billions of people.



The United Nations wants to help them by ensuring that everyone can access clean water by 2030. It is part of the so-called ‘2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, and it is an enormous challenge. Back in 2015, the world committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as part of the agenda – but right now we are seriously off-track. Billions of people and countless schools, businesses, healthcare centres, farms and factories are being held back because their human rights to water and sanitation have not yet been fulfilled.

Meanwhile, this year each one of us can do at least something to help on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. A donation to Water Aid will help provide safe water to marginalised communities worldwide. Simply go to: [www.wateraid.org/uk](http://www.wateraid.org/uk)

## March Hares

The frosty sunlight glistens  
From the ice upon the grass;  
But they who stop and listen  
Know winter, soon, will pass.

The icy grass is rustling!  
Beneath the frozen dew  
Someone is in there, bustling;  
We only wonder – who?



They burst into a clearing  
Dispelling winter cares!  
A sight to set us cheering!  
Two zany, mad, March hares!

They're chasing, leaping, bounding  
As round and round they race;  
Those winter blues confounding –  
Spring stares us in the face!

The cold and dark behind us  
We watch those leopines, mad;  
Their frolics just remind us –  
It's time now to be glad!

*By Nigel Beeton*

### The Real Secret to Skimming a Stone

Our parents taught us that we should use only stones that are circular, flat, smooth, and of medium weight. But now scientists have discovered that even stones that are heavy, knobbly and a bit potato-like can be made to bounce across the water. The research shows that while a flat stone is best for several short, neat skips, a larger rock can skim with fewer – but bigger – leaps. Dr Ryan Palmer, a research associate at Bath University said “the heavier a projectile is and the more curved it is, the deeper and longer the skimming interaction. Meaning you can get really exciting skims known as ‘superelastic’ bounces. Essentially, you throw it in at one height and it has a monstrous leap out of the water, which is both surprising and unexpected.”



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### Whittington Parish Council News, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Meeting

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Harvey.

Various organisation representatives spoke at the meeting: (1) An annual progress report was provided for 2022/23 on Whittington Youth Club, the report was noted and organisers were thanked for their hard work running the now well established and well supported club. (2) At Whittington Cricket Club the All Stars and Dynamo, started in May 2022 had 23 children between 8 – 12 participating and is to continue this year. (3) Also, at the Cricket Club the Whittington Witches, also set-up last year, now has 28 members and is going strong. The Parish Council were thanked for grant donations to support these efforts.

**KEY ITEMS: Fitzwarine Play Area** – The Clerk reported that the repair to the Junior Climber is due for completion by the end of January. Councillor Davis reported on the monthly visual checks – the glider platform has movement around the screws as previously noted. The Play Area is currently pretty muddy and there is a significant dip at the bottom of the slide on the

Junior Climber that will need filling when the ground is drier. NOTED.

**The King's Coronation:** The Clerk reported that no official documentation on events has been released yet, the matter will be discussed as information becomes available, with a view to working alongside the Castle. There was discussion and interest in the possibility of supplying a commemorative item to village school children; the Clerk to research and report back.

**To set the Budget and Parish Precept for 2023/24:** The budget, prepared by the Clerk, was presented and was agreed to by the Council. The following information was considered by councillors when setting the precept: **(a)** The number of electors in the parish, 2,186 (an increase from 2,141 in 2022/23). **(b)** Shropshire Council tax base for Whittington, based on Band D equivalents: 987.29 (increase from 947.06 in 2022/23. It was RESOLVED to set a parish precept of £55,665.52 which equates to a 1.57% increase on a Band D property in the Parish (increasing the Band D Council Tax Charge by £0.87p to £56.38).

**Grant Applications:** 1<sup>st</sup> Whittington Brownies -Support with annual membership to Girl Guide Headquarters - Applying for £300 which will go towards this year's census costs which total £1,287 for the 30 brownies and 3 leaders, Granted. Whittington Community Centre-Install a Central Heating Programmer £100.00, Granted. To support Whittington Music Festival with their running costs so that tickets accessible and affordable £200, Granted.

**Police Report:** The lack of police presence at recent meetings was discussed and it was RESOLVED to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner and notify him that, in Whittington, the Charter is not being met, a representative should attend every 3 months but in the last 12 months attendance has significantly declined.

#### **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.

**Shropshire Councillors Report:** Councillor Charmley reported on the following matters: **a)** The Traveller Site is being investigated as there are serious issues with rubbish. **b)** On 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2:00pm there will be a site meeting with Highways in the Parish.

**Planning:** Shropshire Council had not published any recent planning decisions. Council considered the following Planning Applications: **I. Reference:** 22/04833/FUL (validated 14/12/2022) **Address:** Whittington Cricket and Bowls Club, **Proposal:** Installation of a three-lane, fully enclosed, ECB approved non-turf practice system. The Parish Council had no comments to make.

**II. Old Manor House, 1 Boot St, Proposal:** Removal of the bath from the existing ground floor bathroom and return it to a w.c./cloakroom with new sanitaryware; addition of 2 en-suite shower rooms between two existing bedrooms on the first floor including new doorway in the existing partition wall between the two bedrooms; addition of en-suite to the exiting main bedroom on the first floor; addition of a shower to the existing bathroom on the second floor and renew the toilet and sink(s); additional of en-suite to the remaining bathroom on the second floor; addition of new drainage where shown on the enclosed drawings (internal), and slate vents for new extract fans affecting a Grade II Listed Building. The Parish Council have no comments to make on this application.

**III. Reference:** 22/05655/FUL (validated 10/01/2023) Whittington Church of England School, Station Road SY11 4DA **Proposal:** Erection of single storey extension connecting into the existing school building to provide 3 new classrooms and associated ancillary spaces. It was RESOLVED to SUPPORT the application. *Cllr Whitby declared a bias and left the room, taking no part in the discussion or vote.*

Council considered the following Planning Appeals: **I. Big House, Station Road SY11 4DB, description of development:** Erection of replacement garden room extension, removal of modern brick chimney stack and replacement with a stainless-steel flue (revised scheme). Application reference: 21/05534/ FUL and 21/05535/LBC (Listed Building Status) Planning Inspector ref: APP/L3245/W/22/3300863.

Appeal reference: 23/03108/REF Appeal start date: 3 January 2023 Parish Council's initial comments (16.12.21): The Parish Council request that the Planning Officer ensures that the new stainless-steel flue will be in keeping with the listing of the building, that is within a conservation area. It was RESOLVED that the previous comment stands so no further action required. Council then considered planning applications not listed above that are received after the issue of this agenda and are included on Shropshire Council's website. **I. Reference:** 23/00129/FUL (validated: 12/01/2023) Sumtyme, Iron Mills, SY11 4NQ **Proposal:** Single storey side extension and alteration to existing layout/window locations. The Parish Council have no comments to make on this application.

**Highways, Pavements and Footpaths:** No updates from Shropshire Council, awaiting a report after the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**Next meeting:** – This will be face-to-face meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7:30pm in the Senior Citizens' Hall with limited space for members of the public wishing to attend. Future meeting dates 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**

## WENLOCK EDGE

Wenlock Edge is a limestone escarpment and a site of special scientific interest because of its geology. It is around 15 miles long, running southwest to northeast between Craven Arms and Much Wenlock; it is roughly 1,083 feet above sea level.

The Edge was created around 430 million years ago, the limestone originally formed from crushed shells, salt water and ancient, tiny sea creatures. These formations were established when the area was about 25/30 degrees south of the equator, about the level of the Seychelles, under a shallow, subtropical sea, enjoying a Caribbean type of environment. Wenlock Edge has been described by scientist Richard Corfield, as an example of the most spectacular reef building the world has ever seen. There is a period in our history known as the Wenlock Epoch representing those rocks deposited worldwide between 433.4 million and 427.4 million years ago, during part of what is known as the Silurian period, and is recognised worldwide by that name.

This limestone is one of the best-studied Silurian formations of the world and is noted for its abounding variety of excellently preserved fossils: brachiopods (lamp shells), corals, trilobites, clams, bryozoans (moss animals), and crinoids (class of echinoderm that includes present-day sea lilies and feather stars). Similarly rich Wenlock fossil collections occur on the Swedish island of Gotland and in the Great Lakes region of North America.



*a fossil coral*

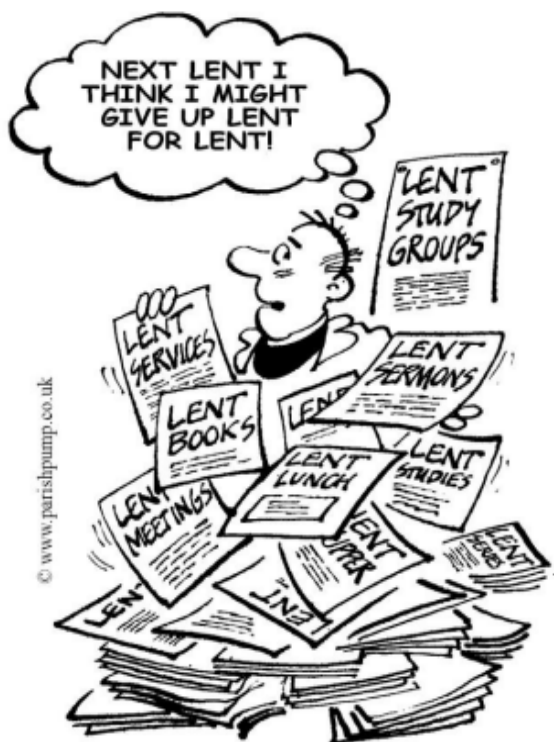
The National Trust manages 7 miles of Wenlock Edge which has a long history of quarrying yet is best known today for its breath-taking views. Did you know that limestone is found in toothpaste and paint, as an essential component of concrete and as aggregate for the base of our roads. Limestone formations contain about 30% of the world's petroleum reservoirs. The best walk to follow to find fossils is the Lime Kiln Wark, marked in orange; almost every rock seems to contain brachiopods, shellfish, which look exactly like shells you might pick up on a beach.

Wenlock Edge is also the largest area of continuous ancient woodland in the county, and is an area where the fall in the number of dormice both



nationally and internationally, have had a resurgence thanks to the work of the National Trust because it is near their most north-westerly limit in Europe and thus are particularly vulnerable. To encourage their survival the Trust has had a nest-box scheme since 1999, they now have 27 of them which are checked twice a year.

There is a local legend about a local thief by the name of Ippikin, who buried his treasure somewhere on the edge; the story goes that should anyone stand on the escarpment and say "Ippikin, Ippikin, keep away with your long chin" that they will be pushed over by Ippikin's ghost. The Edge has also been the inspiration in the Arts; Poet A. E. Houseman wrote a poem entitled "On Wenlock Edge the Wood's in Trouble" in his 1896 collection A Shropshire Lad. A few years later, in 1909, Ralph Vaughan Williams composed a song-cycle called On Wenlock Edge, which comprises settings of that and five other Houseman poems. Artist, L. S. Lowry, used the edge as an inspiration for several works including a pencil drawing of the escarpment, detailing the woodland in his piece "A Bit of Wenlock Edge."



## 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: Sophie Anderson

Tel: 07951 793350

### 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/>



OSWESTRY  
TOWN MARKET

## Oswestry Market

*A unique, diverse, historic and  
award winning market*

*Every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday*

## Artisan Market

*Last Friday every month*



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

Contact 01691 680222