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THE RIPPLE

June 2023

50p





2023@thecastle

kitchen@thecastle will continue to open daily 9-4 in the winter and 9-5 in the summer months.

Visit the website for updates on seasonal changes to opening and news on upcoming events.

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



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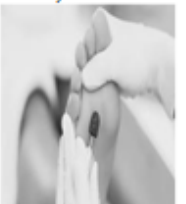
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Welsh Frankton	09:06	10:06	11:06	13:16	14:06	16:51
Narrowboat Inn	09:07	10:07	11:07	13:07	14:07	16:52
A495-Hinford Junction	09:09	10:09	11:09	13:09	14:09	16:54
Whittington, Penybryn Avenue	09:11	10:11	11:11	13:11	14:11	16:56
Whittington, Three Trees	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 4th Sunday Holy Communion

11:00am 1st Sunday Informal Family Service

11:00am Other Sundays Parish Communion

6:30pm 3rd Sunday Informal Service

4:00pm 2nd Sunday Messy church (no service in August)

WEEKDAYS: 9:30am Holy Communion - Thursday

RECTOR: Reverend Suzan Williams [Tel:674948](tel:674948)
The Rectory, Whittington SY11 4DF – email: revwilliams1991@icloud.com

CHURCHWARDENS:
Mr M Phipps, Wesley Cottage, Babbinswood, Whittington [Tel:670940](tel:670940)

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VERGER: Mr D. Howard, 16 Yew Tree Avenue, Whittington [Tel:656389](tel:656389)

ORGANIST: Mr K. Griffiths, 12 Park Crescent, Park Hall [Tel:662116](tel:662116)

MAGAZINE:
Editor: Miss A Ward, Manor Garden, 5 Boot Street, Whittington – eaw4@btinternet.com [Tel:672838](tel:672838)

Distribution: Mrs C Hughes, 9 Rosehill Close, SY11 4DY [Tel:662417](tel:662417)

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**“THE RIPPLE”
(Whittington Parish Church Magazine)
Vol 36 No 2**

June 2023

Rectors Ramblings

How Do You Spell Love?

The Beatles sang all you need is love
Whitney Houston sang I will always love you
Nat King Cole sang l o v e love
Justin Bieber sang as long as you love me

A class of little children was learning to spell. They spelled a number of words such as cat, dog and cow. After each word they were asked to imitate the sound that the animal makes. When Mary was asked to spell love, she didn't stop to spell the word, but ran and threw her arms around the teacher's neck and kissed her on the cheek. "We spell love this way, it is the best way."

In our culture love is often portrayed in the poems in greetings cards, or like something light and fluffy round the edges, rather than the robust, self-sacrificing love that Jesus is alluding to.

1 Corinthians 13 says Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

The love we're called to puts the needs of others before our own, and seeks to take the lower, sometimes humbler route, for the good of the most vulnerable and needy in our communities. Something that struck me profoundly during the Coronation service recently, was the part where King Charles pledged that he came not to be served but to

serve. We, as those following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, are to love as he first loved us. What that looks like practically will vary from person to person. To one person it will be volunteering in our local food bank; to another it may mean listening to children read in our local school; and maybe, for you, it may be beginning to explore what you might offer in the service of our community. Let's be a community who care for those around us.

Every Blessing

Suzan

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June 2023

DIARY

- 1 9:30am Holy Communion
- 4 **TRINITY SUNDAY**
11:00am Informal Family Service
- 5 Whittington Church of England School reopens
10:30am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 6 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 7 7:30pm Monthly Whist Drive in the Senior Citizens' Hall,
£2.50 including light refreshments
- 8 **CORPUS CHRISTI**
9:30am Holy Communion
- 11 **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY – ST BARNABAS**
11:00am Parish Communion
4:00 – 5:30pm Messy Church
- 12 **LAST DAY** for magazine material for the July edition of “The
Ripple” all material to Anne Ward, 5 Boot Street,
Whittington – eaw4@btinternet.com
10:30am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 13 2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 14 7:00pm Whittington WI meets in the Community Centre
- 4
- 15 9:30am Holy Communion
- 18 **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
11:00am Parish Communion
6:30pm Informal Service
- 19 10:30am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 20 9:00am Senior Citizens coach trip to Anglesey; further
details page 8 – 9
2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
- 22 **International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services**
9:30am Holy Communion
- 24 **ARMED FORCES DAY**
- 25 **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Parish Communion
5:00pm Music for a Summer Evening with the Cantiones
Choir in Whittington Parish Church; further details
on page 22
7:00for 7:30pm Bingo at the White Lion
- 26 10:30am-12:00noon Cameo in church (Come and Meet Each Other)
- 27 12:00noon Whittington Senior Citizens monthly lunch at the
White Lion; further details page 8 – 9
2:00-3:00pm Praise and Play in church
7:00pm Whittington Parish Council meets in the Senior
Citizens' Hall

Extracts from the Parish Registers
for the month of April 2023



REQUIESCAT IN PACE

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

11th September 2022 Harry Leslie Rush
aged 97 of Hindford
(Internment of Ashes)



8th April 2023 Frank Brian Davies
aged 81 of Burma Road, Park Hall

THANK YOU Re: PAMELA MARY WYNNE

Molly, David, Martin and Kay wish to thank everyone for their support and kind messages and attendance at Pamela’s funeral and for the donations of £750 which has made its way to the charity MIND. **David**

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their kindness, cards, prayers and donations following the death of my mother Mary Dyke. We have been able to forward £1,080 to the Severn Hospice for their Hospice at Home work. Thank you to all who made a donation in her memory. **Sue Dyke**

**WHITTINGTON OPEN GARDENS
IN AID OF SAVE THE CHILDREN**

Helen, Louise and Barbara were delighted to open their gardens to visitors on the May Day Bank Holiday. Due to the kind support and generous donations a magnificent sum of £3,000 was sent to the Save the Children Fund. The aid given by all organisations supporting children at this challenging time of natural disaster, unrest and war is ever more vital.

Please accept our most grateful thanks. **Barbara Molesworth**

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark, to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

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Man and wife – With Bible in hand, I read to my Sunday school class: “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife.” Okay,” I said, “from this Scripture, what do we learn is important in marriage?” A voice at the back blurted: “Cleavage!”

It’s weird, being the same age as old people

WHITTINGTON SENIOR CITIZENS
Over 50's Club – Recycled Teenagers

We managed to hold our Annual General Meeting during a coffee morning on Thursday 4th May. Marion Lycett, our current treasurer, had decided it was time to stand down as she feels there is a need for someone slightly younger than someone in their mid- eighties. During the meeting Marion was thanked for the work she had tirelessly undertaken for the club during all the years she had held the post. Mr John Lindup had volunteered to take on the mantle and was duly proposed and seconded as our new treasurer – welcome John. John has attended several coffee mornings and is getting to know one or two regular members. The rest of the officers were proposed and seconded and consequently remain the same: President – Mrs Margaret Hulson; Chair – Veronica Hargrave; Secretary – yours truly and Committee Members: Carole Gray, Sue Dyke, Glenys Shuker, Mary Tomkins, Marion Lycett along with Mrs Bobby Evans who volunteered to become a member.

We held our Ploughman's Lunch on Monday 8th May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. 36 people enjoyed a buffet lunch which included ham, obtained from Jamie Ward, various types of cheeses, sausage rolls, quiches, salads, trifle and cakes. Once again items were made and provided by members of the club, and entry was by donations. Margaret Hulson, our president, said grace and we raised our glasses of Prosecco to salute our new king and queen. A lovely lunchtime experience following which Anne Ward thanked the committee, and members, who had produced the meal and waited on. My thanks must also go to John, Mary and Ivor Tomkins who helped me decorate the hall on the Friday evening.

The next monthly Tuesday lunch at The White Lion will be on Tuesday 27th June at 12:00 noon. The cost is currently £10 per person which includes a two-course meal and a cup of tea or coffee. **Please contact ME on 01691 662236 if you wish to join us.** Club membership of the club is not necessary so if you would like to join us one month, you do not have to commit indefinitely, though many do.

Subscriptions for 2023 are now due for the year to 31st March 2024 and remains at £10 per person. Please try and submit your subscription as soon as possible.

The continuation of the Monday afternoon whist sessions is still undecided due to lack of support. If anyone is interested in playing, or learning the game would they please contact Liz Corrin on 773733. The whist sessions held on the first Wednesday evening each month are well attended. These start at 7.30 pm and have a small charge of £2.50 to cover tea/coffee and biscuits and are run by Carol and Derek Pope.

The weekly Thursday coffee mornings are very popular for a good natter and catch up; membership is not a requirement. Why not join us any time after 10:00am, we usually finish about 11:30 am and ask just £2.00 which is not a lot for a coffee (or two) together with a biscuit. If someone is celebrating a birthday then cakes and a tippie are sometimes on offer. This is a very friendly gathering, and it means you can save on your heating bill.

Events currently held at the hall:

Monday 7:30 – 9:30 pm – Line dancing with Steve Mason for beginners/uppers/improvers (phone for details 07963662426)

Wednesday 1:30 – 2:30pm Exercise Class – beginning sitting down to warm up and then gradually to standing if comfortably able. A great chance to forget your troubles and enjoy a laugh and a giggle.

Thursday 10:00 – 11:30am Coffee

Junior Ballet classes (after school) during term time with Ellie Moss

7:30 pm TNS run a Youth Group during term time

ITEMS FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2023

20th June 9:00am First pick-up at Rosehill for a Tour to Anglesey – £25

11th July New Brighton - £25

15th August Black Country Museum, Dudley – coach £15, entrance to museum £15 and canal boat trip £10 – total £40 (note correction to the date)

12th September Llandudno - £25

10th October Harvest Lunch

November Fish and Chip lunch plus a Coffee and Mince Pie morning

December 5th: Christmas Tea

December 15th: Christmas lunch at The Navigation

If you would like to join us on any of the above, please contact me.

Gillian Roberts – Secretary 662236

A DAY IN THE GARDEN

1. At the beginning of the month plant out all vegetables which have been raised under glass, such as courgettes, outdoor cucumbers, French and runner beans.
2. Continue to remove side shoots from tomatoes under glass and tie in where necessary.
3. Hoe between the newly planted rows of vegetables to control annual weeds. I find a flat dutch hoe is best.
4. Plant-up hanging baskets with half-hardy annuals and set out troughs of pelargoniums, remembering to water well in hot weather.
5. Water newly planted trees and shrubs two or three times a week.

Flower of the month: Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris Pseudagoras*)

This native iris is easily identified from its tall rush like leaves and can be seen growing alongside the moat by Whittington Castle. The flowering stems, bearing several buds, is thought to be the inspiration for the fleur-de-lys symbol, which is used in heraldry and by the Scouts. It thrives in boggy conditions, often making a good nesting place for water birds. The plants roots and leaves are poisonous.



Tree of the month: Lombardy Black Poplar

(*Populus nigra var. Italica*) Forms a tall vertical, deciduous, tree with upswept branches. Planted widely along roads and as avenues in many parts of Europe, its leaves are downy, with a silver backing, which reflects light whenever rustled by wind. The tree flowers in March-April, bearing catkins which are always male. It is believed to have originated in Italy in the late 1600s. It turns a brilliant yellow in the Autumn.



WHITTINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our recent May meeting was very enjoyable and interesting. We had the usual business meeting with announcements on upcoming excursions, and events, including a trip to Liverpool to visit the docks and Cathedrals, a

paper flower workshop, a visit to Sudeley Castle; a craft day in the village for members; a social gathering with Great Ness WI in July; volunteering events such as the Derwen Fete and the Whittington Castle Fete, where we are having stalls and selling Lucky Bags to raise funds. We also have a French conversation group starting in June at the café at the Castle.

This was followed by an inspiring talk by Katie Millard about how to maintain our happiness and useful practical tips when anxiety strikes, such as helping with sleep problems; Katie is a qualified Hypnotherapist and Happiness trainer for schools and corporate businesses. She talked about having daily gratitude, breathing techniques and mindfulness. She was full of enthusiasm and was an engaging speaker who encouraged audience participation. Many of those present found this most helpful, and went away with enthusiasm to have a go; the feedback has been very positive.

After our talk, we had tea, biscuits and sandwiches, provided by members, whilst at the same time we had our raffle, which thanks to the generosity of members included wine, gin, chocolates, socks, jewellery, plant labels, hair rollers (!) and a spiced tomato sauce. Pam Wright looks after the raffle and she has just the right voice for calling the numbers when people are busy chatting!

The swap table this month was surplus plants which proved very popular. There were vegetable plants, sunflowers, foxgloves, tomato plants galore, house plants and some herbs too. The competition this month was won by Julie Sheffield and it was a floral arrangement to include ribbons. The entries were beautiful. We collected discarded bras in our bra bag for a charity in Africa, which helps families earn money by making things from them to then sell; this is organised by Jo Goodall. Any donations would be most welcome.

Whittington WI is friendly and inviting, and we enjoy lively meetings. If you fancy coming along to try it out you will be made to feel most welcome; we have all ages. Knitting and baking skills are NOT a requirement, but being kind and friendly is. It's so great to feel part of the community and to have more friends. We meet in the Community Centre on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm.

Louise Idoux

Grandmothers – Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are not just all-wise, but also prehistoric.

The story behind the HYMN: Lord, for the years

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's Finlandia, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Many of the words in the hymn were true for the Queen herself. She did indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

The 'extra' verse, added for the Queen, can now become our prayer and hope for King Charles.

Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.

Happy memories

After nearly 40 years serving as a member of the Parochial Church Council (I did have a short break in 1994) I have decided it may be time to stand aside, and hopefully make room for some-one slightly younger! I served twice as both secretary and as treasurer before taking up the mantle of Church Warden for the last 12 years.

I initially volunteered to take the notes at the start of an Interregnum circa 1983/1984 when the then Rural Dean, Reverend Tony Villiers, Vicar of St Agatha's, Llanymynech, was required to hold a public meeting to form a completely new Parochial Church Council (PCC) for our Parish Church. I was appointed secretary, and was in that position when Reverend Selwyn Frost became Rector of Whittington, before becoming Treasurer, a post I held until he was replaced in 1987 by the Reverend David North. I changed course again, becoming secretary once more, and then treasurer for the second time towards 2010; a position I held when Reverend Sarah Burton moved to Whittington. Then somehow or other in 2012 I became one of the 2 Church Wardens.

During all those 40 years I have had the privilege of working alongside several wardens. The ones that come to mind are Eric Hurst, John Hughes, Geoff Parker, Marjorie Weston, Hyral Thomas, David Wynne, Anne Ward and Don Howard and one must not forget Philip Morris. Since taking on the role myself my partners in crime have been Ian Mellor and latterly Mike Phipps.

I got on extremely well with Ian. We had a great deal in common, both being born in the era to appreciate 60s music – even though he teased me about my devotion to Sir Cliff Richard! Ian and I both loved tennis, cricket and football; once again we did not always agree, with me supporting Manchester United, whereas his first love was Oldham Athletic. I miss Ian very much as we lived near to one another, and he would pop up to number 28 and sit in the garden talking to Brian. Then along came Mr Phipps. What

can I say about Mike? We have the same sense of humour (not everybody's cup of tea) and we can always be found giggling in the vestry, our motto being "what goes on the vestry, stays in the vestry". Mike and I both suffered sad and traumatic times caring for our other halves. Whenever I rang Mike if Barbara answered, she always shouted "Mike it's your other woman". The people that cared for Barbara thought it was hilarious, and when I called on a Saturday morning with their paper, even they referred to me as Mike's other woman. Great memories and some sad ones.

I have lived in Whittington for nearly 55 years, where has the time gone. I have seen Parochial Church Council members come and go and we have experienced both good and difficult times. I sincerely hope that anyone that takes on the role now has as many memories as I do. **Gillian Roberts**

Fellowship Group



Throughout June and July we will be hosting a Fellowship/Bible study group at 4, Inglis Road, Park Hall to which everyone is invited. We'll meet on Wednesdays at 2:30pm for approximately 1 hour looking at the Bible, followed by a 'cuppa' and time of fellowship. If you'd

like to know a bit more, please do ring us on 671994. Please also let us know if you plan to join us (our first meeting will be on Wednesday 7th June) so that we can make sure we have enough chairs!! We look forward to hearing from you. **Arthur and Julie Drowley**



The season is well underway and it is extremely encouraging to see so many people playing cricket again at the club, both youngsters and ladies. The All Stars/Dynamos are proving to be very successful

with some forty youngsters are being coached on Friday evenings between 6:00-8:00pm; it is hoped that more parents will help coaching and administration. The Whittington Witches team are continuing to play regular softball cricket in the league while the newly formed Wizards are playing in the evening league and are encouraging some of the younger members to participate. The new three lane cricket nets are being used on a regular basis by club members and visiting clubs who hire the facility on a weekly basis. Further information regarding fixtures can be found on the club website:

(www.whitcbc.wordpress.com) or Facebook.

The Bowling teams are well into the first part of the season with the A team in the top half of Division 1, but the B team in Division 3 are finding it rather challenging. Jamie Ward's C team are being competitive in second place in Division 4 whilst the D team are towards the bottom of the same division, but Captain Ed Williams is providing all members with an opportunity to play league bowls. The Vets team are mid-table of their 1st Division.

Home Bowling Fixtures for June: Start time 7:00pm

"A" Team	Tuesday 13 th June	v	Cynwyd A
	Tuesday 4 th July	v	Johnstown A
"B" Team	Wednesday 7 th June	v	Bersham
	Wednesday 2 st June	v	Ellesmere B
	Wednesday 28 th June	v	Johnstown D
"C" Team	Wednesday 31 st May	v	Chirk AAA C
	Wednesday 14 th June	v	Llangynog B
"D" Team	Thursday 8 th June	v	Llanymynech C
	Thursday 22 nd June	v	Plas Kynaston B
	Thursday 29 th June	v	Whittington C

Vets Team: Start time 1:00 pm.

Friday 2 nd June	v	Llanymynech
Friday 23 rd June	v	Llanrhaeadr B

Car Boot Sales have been arranged as follows: Pitch Fee £6.00

Bank Holiday	Monday 29 th May	9:00am – 1:00pm
	Friday 9 th June	9:00am – 1:00pm
	Friday 23 rd June	9:00am – 1:00pm
	Friday 7 th July	9:00am – 1:00pm

Refreshments are available.

Mike Brunt

Fire – There was a fire at the main Inland Revenue office in London, but it was put out before any serious good was done. - *Ronnie Corbett*

Carry on – The vicar was making an appeal for more help with the Sunday School: "At the moment I'm just carrying on with a couple of single ladies!"





Funeral Teas
Afternoon Teas
Event Catering
Corporate Catering
Special Occasions
Cook @ Home

FI JONES 07974 874255
TORI WARD 07969 733276

JUNE at Whittington Castle –

The Castle is open daily 9:00am – 5:00pm

3rd June 10:30 – 12:00 noon Eco-Warriors –

Our regular children's club; dress

appropriately for the weather and finish with a complementary hot chocolate. at kitchen@thecastle.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

6th June craft@thecastle Join our informal

crafters – patch-work, paint, scrap book, sketch or knit, do it

with others. Both novices and experts share their skills. Find inspiration or do your own thing – there is coffee, cake and laughter. Everyone is welcome, a small fee applies.

18th June Twelfth Night performed by the Festival Players. Adults

£14, Concessions £12. Tickets available online via Event-

brite, in person from the gift shop and on the gate on the night. See full advert for more details.

24th-25th June Napoleonic Re-enactment as staged by 85eme. *Napoleon*

has left Elba, his armies have regrouped and are on the



march... Living History, demonstrations, and new for this year a guillotine will be in attendance. Entrance £5 per car or donation on the gate for those on foot (free to members).

2nd July 10:00am-4:00pm Plant Hunters Fair – Normal car parking fees apply.

Kimberley Powell, Castle Manager

Telephone 01691 662500

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

WEST MIDLAND POLICE FRAUD AND SCAM WARNING
'AMAZON SCAM'

Worldwide, Amazon has taken down 20,000 phishing websites and 10,000 phone number being used for impersonation scams in 2022. However, Scammers continue to find new ways to contact potential victims by phone, text and by email. **ALWAYS REMEMBER:** Never pay Amazon by phone – they will never ask you for payment information, including Gift Cards, over the phone. Always verify orders directly with Amazon – they will never call, text or email you about an order you were not expecting anyway, asking you to confirm the purchase. You can always check any query by accessing “Your Orders” on your Amazon account. Finally – do not be pressurised, scammers may try and create a sense of urgency to persuade you to proceed. You can report any scams or phishing emails direct to Amazon via your account on the Amazon website

FRAUDULENT USE OF PAYMENT BY GIFT CARDS: Fraudsters can often ask victims to make a payment by purchasing Gift Cards and then handing over the Card number/PIN on the reverse of the card by phone, text or email. Gift Cards of many types are readily available at supermarkets and many other outlets but once the card details are passed on to the criminal that money has gone and is irretrievable. Some outlets, such as Tesco, have posted warning signs about this topic on the card display units. Further to that, we have also had recent reports of criminals hacking the victim's email account, then sending out emails, claiming to be from the victim to the victim's contacts asking for urgent help to purchase an **Amazon Gift Voucher** for £250 as a gift for a sick relative. If you receive an email claiming to come from a friend or relative, making a suspicious, or out of character, request for payments or purchase on their behalf, always double check with them using a different type of contact such as their regular phone number.

Use secure passwords for your email accounts, updating them regularly. Use a secure method of payment, such as a credit card. Never make unsolicited payments to any person, or business, you do not know or recognise. Never pass on Gift Card details to a stranger. If you feel your local Community Group could benefit from a visit/talk from one of the Fraud Protect Officers, please email: fiu.crime.hq@westmercia.police.uk.

We are approaching the season of outdoor events and concerts which gives the fraudster another opportunity to scam the unsuspecting purchaser. Criminals either set up fake websites or social media profiles to sell tickets for major events – sports, music or theatre – that can be fraudulent, or non-existent. Websites may even look like those of genuine organisations but subtle changes in the URL can indicate that it is fraudulent. It is always safest to book tickets through official sellers that are members of the self-regulatory body the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR), as anything else could be a scam. If possible, always pay by Credit Card.

If you have fallen for a scam, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via actionfraud.police.uk. Scam Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take early action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks. Forward Fake Emails received to report@phishing.gov.uk

FOR SALE

This scooter is no longer required – it is called a “Rascal”, model 388D. It is in full working order and has the instruction manual, battery charger etc with it.

I can easily arrange for a viewing – it will require collection from Whittington.

If anyone is interested then please telephone me, Sue Pilsworth, on **07833151790**.



GO! A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought that God had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied, “That’s easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator.”

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

TOPSY-TURVY PLUM, PEACH AND ALMOND CAKE (serves 12)

- 4 tbs golden syrup or honey
- 6 plums, halved and pitted
- 2 peaches or nectarines, pitted and sliced
- 150g (5½ oz) butter, at room temperature
- 150g (5½ oz) light soft brown sugar
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp almond extract
- 150g (5½ oz) ground almonds
- 150g (5½ oz) self-raising flour
- 2 tbs milk
- 12 whole almonds

Oven 180°C/350°F/Gas mark 4

Grease and line a 20cm (8 in) round cake tin – put the tin on a foil-lined baking sheet, in case the syrup seeps out.

Spoon the syrup or honey into the cake tin and spread over the base, Arrange the halved plums on top, cut side down. Tuck in the peach or nectarine slices.

In a large bowl, beat together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

Gradually beat in the eggs.

Stir in the almond extract and ground almonds.

Fold in the flour using a metal spoon, then gently stir in the milk.

Spoon the mixture into the tin and level it out.

Bake in the oven for 45 – 50 minutes, until risen and golden brown.

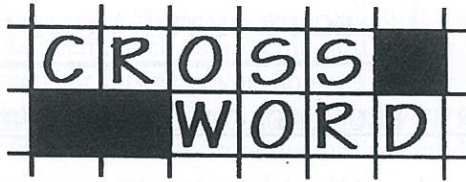
Check with a fine skewer inserted in the cake – it should come out clean.

Cool in the tin for 20 minutes, then invert on to a cooling rack and remove the lining paper.

Cool completely. Serve with the almonds placed into the middle of each plum half.

For a dairy-free version, use dairy-free margarine instead of butter, and use almond milk as an alternative to regular milk.

The biggest lie I tell myself is “I don’t need to write that down, I’ll remember it.”



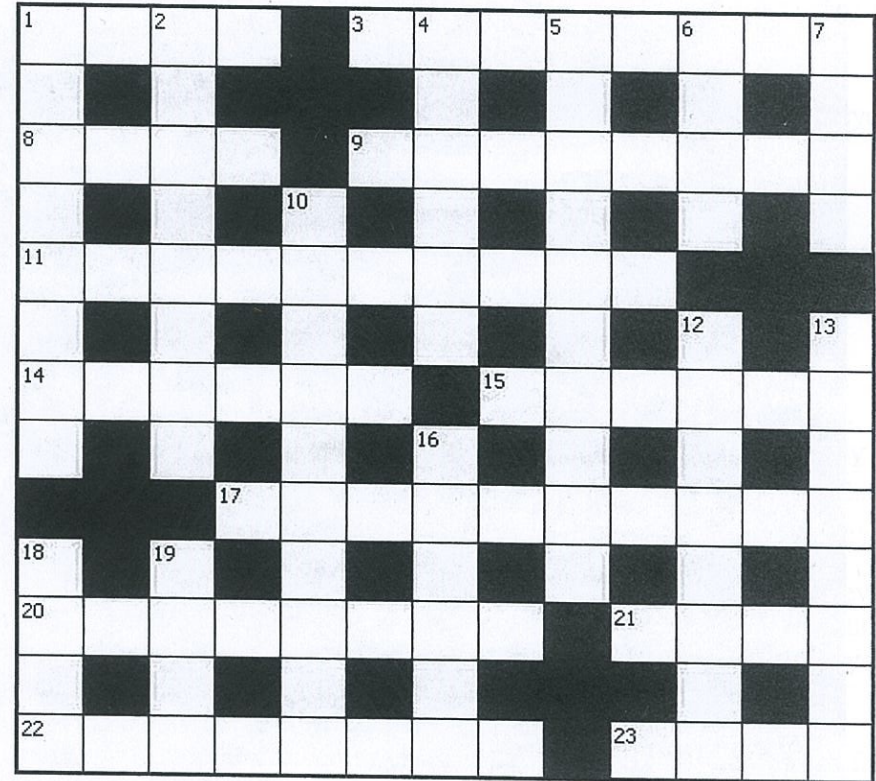
Across:

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down:

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

Love may not make the world spin around,
but it certainly makes a lot of people dizzy



Answers to May's Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

~~~~~  
**Heaven** – An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"

**Cantiones**  
Choir

**Music  
For a  
Summer  
Evening**

Conducted by  
**Martin Bussey**

Accompanied by  
**Stephen Owens**

**Sunday  
25th June 2023  
at 5pm**

**INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS**

  **St John the Baptist Church,  
Whittington SY11 4DF**



 Tickets £12 available at Rowanthorn, Oswestry (cash only)  
or from [www.https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rowanthorn](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rowanthorn)

For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with knowledge that you are never alone.

**Audrey Hepburn**

**Found in a church pew-sheet...** Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

**Advert for a church jumble sale:** 'We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.'

**Beware the church microphone**

The Rectory  
St. James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Despite my assurances that it was unnecessary, it was kind of you to loan us your sound equipment, so we could experience the advantages of using radio microphones in church. Your assurance that everyone would then be able to hear with absolute clarity seemed to miss the point that everyone does *not* necessarily want to do so.

I have no doubt that members of your congregation hang on to your every word, eager to make sure you remain theologically sound. But for us, those who had blissfully slumbered throughout my sermons for the last 30 years found themselves unable to filter out a single syllable.

Colonel Wainwright decided to change the start of his Bible readings from the customary "Here beginneth..." to "Testing, Testing" before giving the microphone a good biff, which made the verger dash outside to check if yet another medieval gargyle had fallen from the roof. Also, forgetting that microphones pick up asides just as effectively, his own comment to his wife in the front pew "I thought I read that rather well" did nothing for the pride he has always cherished for his humility.

I was also not convinced that the 16<sup>th</sup> century workmen who had devoted the greater part of their lives reverently carving the Lady Chapel altar had intended it to support an electronic console that would have looked more at home in an aeroplane cockpit.

However, the event which finally decided us against microphones came about an hour after the service. Several of the choir boys had crept back into the church and decided to improvise a rock concert with their guitars and the mikes turned up full blast. The church exploded in a perfect cacophony of

noise which panicked a horse and rider going by. The horse bolted down the road, which caused two cars to veer violently to avoid it. One car ended up in a pond, the other in a field, having ripped off a great deal of old fencing.

Whoever fixed the fencing failed, and later that night all 43 cows in the field escaped, and ended up in the Colonel's flower-filled front garden, where they spent a comfortable night slicing his velvet turf with their sharp cleats, and chomping everything in sight.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

### Grasping the Nettle!

No, please don't, not literally! The stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) is a hidden treasure of the hedgerow, garden and wayside. Although not popular among children or keen gardeners, due to its uncomfortable sting, this common and memorable wild plant is a treasure trove of nutrients and has some surprising uses as a medicinal herb too.

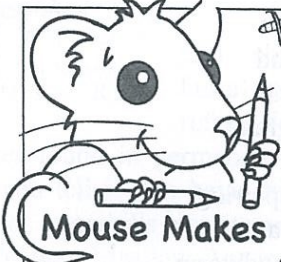
As the plant only likes growing on nutrient rich ground, it is full of useful nutrients, including absorbable iron. This is helpful in cases of anaemia and poor absorption of minerals. The leaves (ironically), have a natural anti-histamine effect in the body, thus helping with symptoms of hay fever and other allergies. During the hay fever season, take it as a tea, as many as 6 mugs per day; it is a little bland tasting but somewhat effective for relieving symptoms. The tea can easily be drunk when cooled down or mixed with something more aromatic, such as fennel or peppermint. Nettle leaf cream is also a way of administering the anti-histamine effect directly onto the skin.

Nettle seeds are used as a stimulant for those with waning energy as they have quite a power bank of nutrients and energy rich ingredients. Start off with a small dose and build up slowly. Add them to morning cereal or a smoothie. Nettle extract is also used to neutralise uric acid in the body; very useful for those suffering with gout along with other herbs, such as celery and sour cherry.

As mentioned, the tea needs to be taken regularly to be effective in any condition. It is safe for children when made to taste better such as being disguised in fruit juice, although the colour resembles pond water. Nettle soup is another old tradition in this country and is very tasty too! Add to a base of onions and potato with seasoning and enjoy!

Louise Idoux

## CHILDREN'S PAGE



The Lord said to Moses,  
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh  
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...  
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord  
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."  
 As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the  
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...

**Mouse Makes**

1 **Water turns to Blood**  
 Which water turned to blood?  
 Read - Exodus 7:19

2 **A Swarm of Frogs**  
 In which places were the frogs found?  
 Read - Exodus 8:3-4

3 **A Plague of Gnats**  
 When Aaron struck his staff on the ground what became Gnats?  
 Read - Exodus 8:16-17

4 **Swarms of Flies**  
 In which land were the flies not be found?  
 Read - Exodus 8:22

5 **Death of Animals**  
 Which animals that belonged to the Egyptians died?  
 Read - Exodus 9:2

6 **A Break out of Boils**  
 What did Moses throw into the air before boils appeared on people and animals?  
 Read - Exodus 9:10

7 **A Rain of Hail**  
 What also rained down with the hail?  
 Where did it not hail?  
 Read - Exodus 9:24-26

8 **A Swarm of Locusts**  
 Where did the wind come from that brought the locusts to the land?  
 Read - Exodus 10:13

9 **Darkness over the Land**  
 How many days did it remain dark?  
 Read - Exodus 10:21-22

10 **Death of the Firstborn**  
 At what time would the firstborn in the land die?  
 Read - Exodus 11:4-6

D F G B O I L S L  
 L S O O T O P I B  
 A W D P E O P L E  
 N A N I M A L S A  
 D R S N G N A T S  
 U M I D N I G H T  
 S S T A F F U U O  
 T A A R O N E N O  
 D E B K D F S D G  
 T M A N W A T E R  
 M O S E S R W R O  
 C R F S N I L E U  
 F I R S T B O R N  
 I V O K N L C F D  
 R E G H W O U I E  
 E R S A K O S S A  
 H W I N D T H T  
 I L F L I E S E H

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON  
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH  
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES  
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT  
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE  
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND  
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

## The Church Warden

Churches stand in every parish  
Of this green and pleasant land  
Some are small, yet so historic  
Some are large, ornate, and grand.

Some have roofs that need repairing  
Some have other wear and tear  
Some have beetles, rot, or woodworm  
But they all need loving care!

Thousands, then, of ancient churches  
Being kept up to their prime  
In the care of all these wardens  
Giving freely of their time.

Yet much more than just buildings  
Occupy these sterling folk!  
Rotas, meetings, service duties  
Yet you'll hear them laugh and joke!

So, to all these lovely people  
Who have so much work to do  
And do it all without complaining  
From our hearts, we say "Thank you."



**Nigel Beeton**

(Have you ever noticed that the Rector's churchwarden's wand has a brass mitre on the top and the People's has a crown? Originally staves had sharp ends and were used for prodding people who had fallen asleep in sermons and before that when fights broke out on church premises.)

**Adam and Eve's true nationality** – A Brit, a Frenchman and a Russian were viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at that garden they are maintaining so well," mused the Brit. "They must be British." "Nonsense," the Frenchman disagreed. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French." "Ah, but no clothes, no shoes, no shelter," the Russian pointed out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is paradise. They are Russian."



## Queens, sunny spots and sticky tongues



Old churchyards and other burial grounds have become a refuge for the Yellow Meadow Ant, *Lasius flavus*, a species found in permanent pasture and meadow, now both rare habitats. You can tell if you have this lovely species in your site as it creates soil mounds or anthills over its nest, often against gravestones and facing the sun. The Yellow Meadow Ant is harmless, and the anthills are quite something, growing larger and larger over the years. Actually, the bulk of the ant nest is below ground, sometimes reaching 3 feet in depth. Within the nest the ants are protected, with temperature and humidity kept relatively constant. Here the ants are farmers, tending aphids which feed on the roots of the meadow grasses and then produce 'honeydew' – food for the ants.

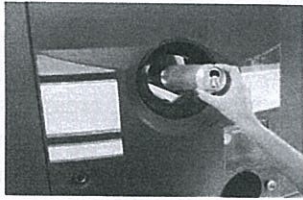
Each of these mounds is started by a queen ant who lands in a warm sunny spot and starts a new colony. She lays eggs which hatch into worker ants who then go out to forage for food and make the nest. This is done by excavating in the ground and carrying innumerable particles of soil above ground level to build a series of chambers. As the number of workers increase so does the size of the mound. The little passages they make and travel through, are above and below ground. In the winter the whole colony retreats further underground away from the cold. They can be up to 100 years in age.

The ants need the warmth of the sun and so they trim back the grass growing on the mound surface and this encourages plants like lady's bedstraw and wild thyme. You may spot plants on ant mounds that are not found elsewhere within your churchyard. Whilst the anthills give the ants a level of safety, green woodpeckers feed on them, visiting the mounds and using their extraordinarily long, sticky tongues to feast on the ants. When you next visit a burial ground, look out for anthills, large or small, and on a sunny day you will see the ants busy at work. If you see an anthill, you can make a biological record for Yellow Meadow Ant even if you don't see the actual yellow coloured ant; try using the iNaturalist app and photographing it. This is a useful species to record; it is an indicator of ancient grassland, suggesting that the area may hold other treasures waiting to be identified.

**Harriet Carty** – *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*,

## Become a litter picker – and earn money

Litter pickers will be able to make about 20p per can or bottle from a new deposit scheme in England and Wales. From 2025, bottles and cans will include a deposit, likely to be 20p, that can be reclaimed when containers are returned to reverse vending machines at designated sites. An environment minister said “there will be an opportunity to collect up litter and receive the deposit, which we think might benefit a range of charities and individuals.” The scheme will



include all polyethylene terephthalate plastic bottles and cans up to three litres in size.

Councils will be able to cash in on any bottles and cans left in the recycling by collecting the deposit. The exact amount of the deposit will be decided by a new quango that will run the scheme, first announced in 2017. The scheme is expected to save local authorities around £35 million a year by reducing the amount of recycling they pick up. The UK uses 14 billion plastic drink bottles, and nine billion drink cans every year. The country already recycles around 70 % of these.

### PAST BUT PRESENT

#### Ancient and obscure laws that linger on in relation to the London Taxi

**More than 13,000 crimes an hour:** During an average working day in London, more than 120,000 technical breaches of an old law are being committed, always in broad daylight, often under the very nose of a policeman, by unwitting citizens and visitors. Of the nearly 21,000 Hackney Carriage License Holders in the capital approximately half are on the road at any one time, picking-up an average of around 20 fares a day each. As they cruise along, keeping a sharp eye out for a raised arm or a waved umbrella and a sharp ear for a cry of “Taxi!”, that is where the breach of the law comes in. According to the strict letter of the law, hailing a cab when it is in motion is illegal. Technically, if you want to hire a cab, you should go to the nearest taxi rank or ‘place appointed.’ If that law were ever strictly applied, there would be chaos in central London. Similarly, if some of the other laws governing taxis and taxi-drivers were enforced, London cabbies would find themselves in some bizarre situations. There are 37 different Hackney

Carriage Acts; most of them date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century but some go as far back as the reign of Queen Anne (1702 – 14) – and none has ever been repealed.

**May I take your temperature?** A taxi driver is supposed to ask every fare if he or she is suffering from any ‘notifiable disease’ such as smallpox or plague or, for that matter, any other contagious disease. If necessary, he should carry out an on-the-spot medical examination, for to carry such sufferers is illegal, and it would be the driver who would face prosecution.



*“84 on the clock, lady!”*

**Mind the nose-bag!** Until the section of the law was repealed in 1976 a cabby was still required to carry a nose-bag on the roof or side of his vehicle, or sack of oats, as he was supposed to have ‘adequate foodstuffs for the horse’. Lawyers generally assumed, however, that if any driver of a black cab were to have been prosecuted under this section, he would be acquitted on the grounds that a tank full of diesel constituted adequate fuel for his 18 horse-powered-engine.

London hackney carriages (ie black cabs) must carry a bale of hay and a sack of oats. No, The London Hackney Carriage Act 1831 made it an offence for the driver of a hackney carriage to feed his horse in the street except with corn out of a bag or with hay from his hands. However, he was not required to carry the corn or hay in his cab. The relevant provision was repealed in 1976.

**Look, no hands!** It is expressly forbidden for any, not just taxi drivers, to make ‘insulting gestures’.

**Furious Driving:** Certain laws governing the speed at which cabs may go do not apply to the ordinary motorist. A cabby who drives too slowly and holds up the traffic can be prosecuted for ‘loitering’. One who goes too fast can be accused of ‘furious driving’.

**Searching:** A cabby should carry out a thorough search of his vehicle before allowing a fare to go on their way. It is the cabby’s responsibility, not the passenger’s, to see that nothing is left behind.

Courtesy of Reader’s Digest UK

### **June is a popular month for weddings, so....**

How many women can one man marry? A little boy who attended his first wedding worked that one out pretty quick: the answer is 16. It is easy, if you think about it. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer. Comes to 16.

### **Reasons for marriage?**

Studying our wedding photos, my six-year-old asked, "Did you marry Dad because he was a vicar?" "Not at all," I replied.

"Did you marry him because he was good-looking?" "No, not that either," I replied.

"Did you marry him for his money?" "Definitely not," I laughed. "He didn't have any."

"So," he concluded sadly, "you just felt sorry for him."

### **With Father's Day (Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June) in mind:**

A father is a banker provided by nature. – French proverb

The child had every toy his father wanted. – Robert C. Whitten

### **Whittington Parish Council News, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Meeting**

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Bromley and Stanton.

### **KEY ITEMS:**

**Notice of Casual Vacancy:** An application to fill the vacant position on the Parish Council was considered before it was resolved that Charles Lillis be co-opted onto the council to fill the vacancy. As he was not present at the meeting it was agreed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office be signed, in the presence of the Clerk, prior to the next ordinary meeting.

**Police Report:** A written report was noted and further information, and explanation, on several matters requested.

### **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.

Officers 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 PACT meetings), on the phone or online. 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.

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

✉️ [oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

🌐 [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)



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

**Fitzgwarine Play Area:** Councillor Davis reported that there were no issues with the equipment to report and that turf will be added to the end of the small slide by the contractor. It was noted that when making his checks on the site he had received positive feedback by its users.

**The King's Coronation:** Both the Parish Council Chair and Vice Chair will be attending a coronation gift presentation event for Whittington Church of England Primary School pupils and Whittington Under 5s on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May in the Parish Church. Plans for the Coronation celebration event organised by Whittington Together are progressing and advertising has started.

**Shropshire Councillors Report:** Councillor Charnley had emailed the Clerk to say that Shropshire Council had no updates for the Parish Council, and that he would follow-up the Highways matters for which the Clerk was not receiving a response.

**Planning:** There were no a) recent Planning decisions published by Shropshire Council; b) Planning applications or c) any Planning applications received after the issue of this agenda and which are included on the Shropshire Council's website for consideration by the Parish Council.

**Highways, Pavements and Footpaths:** The Clerk reported that yet again

there were no further updates on items before the Council and that Highways would be chased again ahead of the next meeting.

**Grant Requests:** Several requests were considered before the following were approved: **a)** Friends of Whittington Cemetery (grass cutting) £1,600 (councillor Davis did not take part in this discussion or vote); **b)** Whittington Castle (grass cutting) £528; **c)** The New Saints FC Foundation – Whittington Youth Club and Holiday Activities £2,700; **d)** Senior Citizen's Hall (broadband) It was agreed to pay as backdated when paying the annual grant in July.

**Next meeting:** – This will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June at **7:00pm** 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 Notice – boards, 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**

### UPTON CRESSAGE HALL

Standing between Ludlow and Bridgenorth the current hall was built in the latter part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century whilst retaining a 15<sup>th</sup> century Great Hall as well as parts dating back to 1380; it is reputed to be the oldest dated house built entirely of brick in Shropshire. The first Hall is recorded in the Domesday Book compiled in 1085-86. From the 14<sup>th</sup> century until 1926 it was home to the Cressett family and their descendants, which included the Thursby Pelham family (a name not unfamiliar to church-goers). This part of Shropshire was described by P.G. Woodhouse, who grew up in the area as "the Paradise of England".

There is a long-standing tradition that the young Edward V, son of King Edward IV, and one of famed 'Princes in the Tower', stayed at the early manor in April 1483 on his fateful and hurried journey from Ludlow to the Tower of London. He had been anointed king at Ludlow Castle but for the coronation to be recognised he needed to be crowned in Westminster Abbey.

The tradition is backed up by Cressett family reports. Hugh Cressett was well known to Edward IV and the remote position of the fortified manor of Upton Cressett made it an ideal safehouse. Upton Cressett is seventeen miles from Ludlow – exactly a day's march – and the royal party would have stayed at Upton Cressett before crossing the River Severn at Bridgnorth.

There were to be many encounters with members of the Royal Family over the centuries; Thomas Cressett both fell out with Henry VIII and was later reconciled to him. During Elizabeth I's reign Richard Cressett built the Gatehouse and then in 1580 encased the medieval manor house in brick (a date-stone is clearly visible); obviously a rich man he made the second largest donation to the Armada Fund in 1588.

Richard's grandson, Francis, would become Steward and Treasurer to Charles I, and once again his home provided a safe haven when Prince Rupert, the Duke of Cumberland escaped Cromwell's army by hiding at Upton Cressett during the



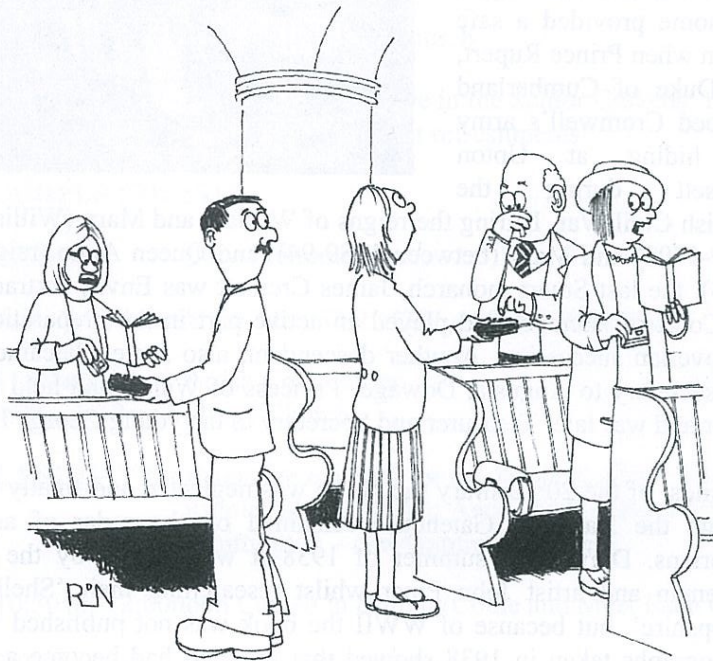
English Civil War. During the reigns of William and Mary (William reigned 1689-1702) and Mary (between 1689-94), and Queen Anne (reigned 1702-1714), the last Stuart monarch, James Cressett was Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of Hanover and played an active part in the preparations for the Hanoverian succession. Another descendant, also James, became confidant and secretary to Augusta, Dowager Princess of Wales, and held the post of Tutor and was later Treasurer and Secretary to the young George III.

For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the house was neglected and finally abandoned though the Hall and Gatehouse remained on the radar of architectural historians. During the summer of 1938 it was visited by the poet John Betjeman and artist John Piper whilst researching their 'Shell Guide to Shropshire', but because of WWII the book was not published until 1951. Photographs taken in 1938 showed that the Hall had become a farmhouse and the Gatehouse as a store for agricultural machinery. The Hall was bought in 1969 by a 30-year-old London lawyer, and later MP for first Stafford then



Stone, Bill Cash who saw the house listed as an endangered building by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Despite the large tree growing up the staircase, out-of-control ivy and the rest he and his wife, together with SPAB, began renovation work in 1971. After extensive renovations were completed, the Hall was upgraded to Grade I listed designation by English Heritage in 2012 along with the Gatehouse and nearby Norman church. It is now home to Sir Bill's son and his family.

The Hall and newly designed gardens including the kitchen Garden, Moat Walk, Medieval Wood, Rose Garden and existing topiary garden are open to visitors and there is an exhibition telling the story of the restoration. The Gatehouse, the Moat House and the Coach House have all been converted into luxury holiday accommodation to a level whereby Upton Cressett Hall was selected as one of the Best Ten Stately Homes with accommodation to stay by the Daily Telegraph, and has been winner of 'Best Hidden Gem' as a heritage holiday destination.



## 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