

AgeUK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin ext.231	01743 233123
BINS - Waste Management customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk	0345 6789007
CAXTON SURGERY https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx	01691 654646
Citizens Advice Bureau, Castle View	03444 991100
CORBET SCHOOL www.corbetschool.net	01939 260296
DIAL-A-RIDE, Volunteer Bureau and Qube Arts centre (main switchboard Osw.Community Action)	01691 656882
ELECTRICITY Scottish Power (Manweb as was)	0800 001 5400
KNOCKIN Medical Practice	01691 682203
NHS Out of Hours Service	111
Orthopaedic Hospital	01691 404000
PARISH COUNCIL email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	
PRADOE CHURCH: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	01691 610322
QUEENS HEAD RESTAURANT	01691 610255
RAIL STATION, GOBOWEN	01691 681010
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH: Fr Philip Holy Mass Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 10 am	01691 652248
RSPCA Shropshire Branch	07703 567935
SAMARITANS	116 123
SCHOOL – West Felton C E School	01691 610388
SHOP: West Felton Stores	01691 610863
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789000 0345 6789020
Your Shrops Councillor: Steve Charmley email: steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk	01691 587958
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: Revd Suzan Williams	01691 674948
Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
ST. CHAD'S: Chapel Warden: Mrs A Hampson	01691 610845
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Secretary	01691 610357
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number 01691 831251 /	07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: Gillian Sturgess	01691 611811

Year 31

OCTOBER 2024

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

Birthday gifts?

Christmas gifts?

You're sure to find them at



WEST FELTON

ARTS & CRAFTS

Saturday 12th October

**West Felton
Village Hall**

Unusual gifts,
cards, produce,
cakes

Refreshments

See page 15



Entrance
FREE



WHAT'S ON

Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 School Hall
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT... see page 51
Pilates Class	Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book on line GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904456368
Tai Chi	Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall
Badminton	Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall
Baby & Toddler	9:15- 10:30 Termtime WEDNESDAY at the school
Felton Flexors	Wednesday mornings 9:30am to 10:30am Village Hall
Table Tennis	Thursday 7:30pm Village Hall
WI	2nd Thursday of the month 7pm Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	contact Glynnis on 610336
Royal British Legion	8pm Meeting, THE PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

3 Oct	10am COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall	13
12 Oct	11am-3pm VILLAGE HALL ARTS & CRAFTS - Gifts galore	15
13 Oct	West Felton Harvest Festival, St Michael's Church	
13 Oct	4pm HARVEST FESTIVAL - ST Chad's, Haughton	47
26 Oct	10am -1pm ANTIQUES VALUATIONS TONG'S AUCTION HOUSE,	17
8 Nov	7:30pm POPPY CONCERT, Village Hall	
10 Nov	9:30am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Service St Michael's	
10 Nov	10:30am REMEMBRANCE Service, Pradoc Church	
11 Nov	11am SERVICE AT WAR MEMORIAL	
29 Nov	CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON, Alma Close	
30 Nov	CHRISTMAS FAIR, Village Hall	
11 Dec	7pm CHRISTMAS BINGO, Village Hall	
7 Mar25	5:30pm Jack Dent, CHILDREN'S MAGIC SHOW.	



1. **NEWS FROM THE PUNCH BOWL INN - Page 26**
2. **New business advertisement: SECURE LIFE TECHNOLOGY Specialists in Home, Business & Farm Security Systems - Page 36**
3. **NEW MOBILE FOOT CARE/CHIROPODIST- Page 36**

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Discos/parties	£80	Weddings, all day	£200

Commercial rates by arrangement



The Post Office is located in the entrance lobby
of the village hall.

Opening time :
Wednesdays only : 9:30am until 11am.

Round and About West Felton

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

**Last day for submission of copy and
Deadline for content changes 10th OCTOBER 2024**

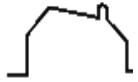
Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

**Advertising Rates
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Quarter page	£50
Half page	£75
Full page	£125



WEST FELTON STORES

Telephone - 01691 610 863

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Monday to Friday: 7am - 8pm

Saturday: 7:30am - 8pm

Sunday: 10am - 7pm

We are doing the delivery service again for those who are shielding at home.

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Parish of Whittington and West Felton with Haughton

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The Rectory, Castle Street, Whittington,

01691 674 948

Services in West Felton Parish:

**St Michael's,
West Felton**
9:30am every Sunday

St Chad's, Haughton
9:30am on the second
Sunday of each month.
SERVICE ACCORDING TO THE
BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

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Sun 6 October
Sun 20 Oct (Harvest Festival)
Sun 3 November
Sun 10 Nov (Remembrance Sunday)
Sun 1 December
7pm Wed 18 Dec (Carol Service)
10am Wed 25 Dec Christmas Day
Sun 5 Jan 2025 (Plough Sunday)



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WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to West Felton Parish Council: **Mrs Rosemary WOOD**

Parish Office: 5 Newtown Gardens

Baschurch Shrewsbury SY4 2HF Tel 01939 262 881

Email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com Website: www.westfeltonparish.co.uk

Chairman	Cllr John THORNHILL	07714 759 466
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR	07879 330 598
Cllr David CURTIS	01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School & SALC Area Comm)	
Cllr Sonja D'ARCY	01691 610 302	
Cllr Alastair FORBES	01691 610 524	
Cllr Kerry GROVE	01691 611 776	
Cllr Marian HESKETH	01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).	
Cllr Chris JONES	01691 610 354	
Cllr Pat MABE	01691 610 400 (Rep SALC Area Comm).	
Cllr Ed NICHOLAS	01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)	
Cllr David WALKER	01691 897 117 (Rep Helicopter Noise Group)	
Shropshire Councillor	Cllr Steve CHARMLEY	01691 650 488

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024-25

8 October 2024	11 February 2025
12 November 2024	11 March 2025
10 December 2024	8 April 2025
14 January 2025	13 May 2025

ROAD CLOSURES IN OCTOBER

- a. Twyford Lane, West Felton Start Date: 29 Oct 2024; End Date: 31 Oct 2024; Promoter: Severn Trent Water; Enforcement pattern: all the time; Closure and diversion route: <https://one.network/?tm=139131144>
- b. Unnamed road through Rednal, West Felton Start Date: 8 Oct 2024; End Date: 9 Oct 2024; Purpose: road closure - detail examination of under-bridge; Promoter: Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd; Enforcement pattern: 23:00 – 06:00hrs; Closure and diversion route: <https://one.network/?tm=139639629>.
- c. Grimpo Road, Grimpo Start Date: 24 Oct 2024; End Date: 24 Oct 2024; Purpose: road closure – pole replacement; Promoter: Openreach; Enforcement pattern: 09:30-14:30hrs; Closure and diversion route: <https://one.network/?tm=139882211>

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PC 21312 Bryant,
Oswestry Central Safer Neighbourhood Team
Oswestry Police Station.

Email: Karl.Bryant@westmercia.police.uk.

Tel: 07773053015 or 101.

These personal mobile numbers/email addresses can be used to gain quick contact with our local policing team **BUT are not to be used to report new incidents**. All incidents must be reported on either of the two numbers: 101 in the case of non-emergency and 999 for emergencies.

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111

Non emergency number : 101 web: www.westmercia.police.uk

Email: oswestrys.snt@westmercia/pnn.police.uk Twitter: @OsCops

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



West Felton Walking Group

Walk leaders:-

Mike Bossen 01691 610623

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

Hilary Iles 01691 610707

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

**John & Eileen Hanmer
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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

John Thornhill, Chair

I am pleased that we were successful in getting the Punch Bow planning application refused. However I am sure this may just be the first stage. At the September meeting the Parish Council agreed to apply to register the Punch Bowl as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) with the Local Planning Authority – Shropshire Council. The effect of this is that if an ACV comes up for sale, the community have an opportunity to make a bid to purchase that asset. Initially there will be a period in which communities can express an intention to bid for an asset, this is followed by a period during which communities can prepare their bid. The owner cannot dispose of the asset during this time. The owner is under no obligation to accept the bid – the provisions do not restrict to whom an owner can sell their property or at what price and communities bidding have no right of first refusal. However, if agreed this will help the community to preserve an important amenity for the village.

PARKING - As reported recently there have been concerns about the impact of parking on the corner of Holyhead Road and The Avenue at the shop. The Parish Council raised this with the police and received a reply from PCSO Stuart Carroll as follows.

"I notice that there are no road markings at this location – and I feel that it would be most beneficial to have double yellow lines on the corner, making it quite clear where you cannot park or stop.

I agree that poor parking in this location could potentially be dangerous, however we cannot be there to monitor this all the time unfortunately, and I would expect that if we were to attend that location then such poor parking may not happen at that time.

I will try to attend this location more frequently and keep an eye on the parking,

but if you could consider the two above actions then I feel this would be the best long term solution. If I see the opportunity to put something on social media highlighting this, I will."

This was discussed in detail and the PC agreed not to apply for double yellow lines. It was felt that this might impact adversely on the use of the shop which is a vital community asset. Parishioners are asked to be considerate when using the shop in regard to parking so as not to block the sightlines for other road users.

Other residents have commented on parking on Oak Farm Lane and near Twyford Lane from the crossroads with Grimpo Road. Unfortunately, we do not have any control over this as such matters are under the jurisdiction of the Highways department of Shropshire Council and the Police. The PC has raised these issues with both agencies. I was pleased to notice a sign just after the crossroads on School Road asking for car parkers to show consideration for residents. In our response to the planning application for the Punch Bowl we argued that currently it can be used for those taking children to and from school to alleviate pressure on these roads. We would encourage greater use of it.

THE DEFIBRILLATOR at the Parish Hall has been brought back in service on the Circuit with new pads.

QUEENS HEAD BUS SHELTER.

Following reports from the window cleaner regarding inaccessibility due to overgrown vegetation at the back of the Queens Head bus shelter, the matter was reported to the Canal & River Trust. We received a reply on 19 July advising that they had asked the local team if the volunteers could tidy this patch up for us. It would be useful to know of that has happened.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH.

Despite several requests, only two more

(Continued on page 9)

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What Almost Every Woman Knows Sooner Or Later

by Ogden Nash Monday, January 13, 2003

Husbands are things that wives have to get used to putting up with.
And with whom they breakfast with and sup with.

They interfere with the discipline of nurseries,
And forget anniversaries,

And when they have been particularly remiss
They think they can cure everything with a great big kiss,

And when you tell them about something awful they have done,
they just look unbearably patient and smile a superior smile,
And think, Oh she'll get over it after a while.

And they always drink cocktails faster than they can assimilate them,
And if you look in their direction they act as if they were martyrs and
you were trying to sacrifice, or immolate them,

And when it's a question of walking five miles to play golf they are very
energetic but if it's doing anything useful around the house they are
very lethargic,
And then they tell you that women are unreasonable and don't know
anything about logic,

And they never want to get up or go to bed at the same time as you do,
And when you perform some simple common or garden rite like putting
cold cream on your face or applying a touch of lipstick they seem to
think that you are up to some kind of black magic like a priestess of Voodoo.

And they are brave and calm and cool and collected about the ailments
of the person they have promised to honor and cherish,
But the minute they get a sniffle or a stomach ache of their own, why
you'd think they were about to perish,

And when you are alone with them they ignore all the minor courtesies
and as for airs and graces, they utterly lack them,
But when there are a lot of people around they hand you so many chairs
and ashtrays and sandwiches, and butter you with such bowings and
scrapings that you want to smack them.

Husbands are indeed an irritating form of life,
And yet, through some quirk of Providence, most of them are really very
deeply ensconced in the affection of their wife. ♦



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What3words - ARTS.RUINS.BURST

(Continued from page 7) Parish Council volunteers have come forward over the summer. This gives a total so far of five when at least six are needed to start a scheme. The PC again asks if anyone else would be willing to become involved. If there are no further volunteers then the matter cannot be pursued any further.

PATH AT PLAYING FIELD.

Following our request Shropshire Council has taken action over the path at playing field. Cllr Walker has checked the path and commented as follows. "Visually, it all looks fine. I imagine there is some wear and tear from the carnival, but only minimal. Some gravel has migrated onto the soft safety surface and the roundabout works. There is some scuffing from feet under the bench."

BIN AT FOX LANE. The Bin has now been installed. Shropshire Council advised of installation with a request from us that they add it to their emptying schedule and an acknowledgement has been received that this has been done. Hopefully, this will alleviate the bin in Hicksons Lane. It is frustrating to hear that it is often overflowing, as the Parish Council pays Shropshire Council to empty that. However, we will pursue this matter.

POLICE SURVEY OF PRIORITIES FOR THE VILLAGE. At the July meeting the PC discussed this request and submitted our three priorities, with a comment on the third one:

1. Speeding
2. Road safety
3. Police visibility

"We discussed the third one at some length. It was noted that despite us previously giving that as a priority, a recent police report states 'no priority given.' Members feel strongly that whilst this is not a crime as such to be tackled, it is something of concern to residents and should be accepted therefore as our third priority. If you are minded to disagree, and disregard it, then please could you

provide a full explanation as to why it is unacceptable."

We received a response from Insp Claire Greenaway-Evans as follows:

"In relation to visibility, I can advise that the South area is quite large, I am able to see my officers on a mapping system and can reassure you that they are on the patch for the vast majority of the working day, bearing in mind essential admin does need to be completed.

The fact that members don't necessarily see officers may simply be a consequence of not being in the right place at the right time owing to the size of the officer's area.

That said however we will look to complete some household surveys when able to identify which areas the lack of Police presence is affecting, would your members be able to advise who and in what forums this has been raised so that I may make contact with those community members to allay their concerns?"

Cllrs Thornhill and Hesketh completed and circulated a Police Town and Parish Council Survey. A copy is on the website if you wish to read it.

LED STREETLIGHT ON THE AVENUE. As previously reported, the PC had received a quote from Highline autumn 2023. We also sought a quote but they require the completion of a questionnaire and provision of a site plan. The questionnaire has been completed but yet again progress has been delayed as the plan cannot be provided until a site visit by Shropshire Council has taken place. Requests to their relevant officer Mark Wootton have fallen on deaf ears. We will pursue this matter as well as our **Traffic Management Programme** which has also been delayed due to lack of response from Shropshire Council Officers. It is becoming urgent as we have two time limited grants towards VAS for this project.

(Continued on page 13)



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ST MICHAEL'S, WEST FELTON : Sun 13 October 9:30am.



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DECISION NOTICE

Mr Mark Brown
c/o Mr Alexis De Pol
Farington House
Stanfield Business Park
Stanfield Lane
Leyland
PR25 4UA

Date: 20th August 2024

Our Ref: 24/02386/OUT
Your Ref: Trust Inns, West Felton

Dear Mr Mark Brown c/o Mr Alexis De Pol De Pol Associates Ltd

DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Location:	Punch Bowl Inn, The Cross, West Felton, Oswestry
Proposed Development:	Outline planning application for the erection of up to 5 dwellings and associated infrastructure
Application No.	24/02386/OUT
Date Received:	20th June 2024
Applicant:	Mr Mark Brown

Shropshire Council hereby **REFUSE OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION** for the reasons outlined below.

REASONS FOR REFUSAL

1. The proposed development would result in the over development of the site which has a visually detrimental impact upon the character and appearance of the area and a congested parking arrangement with limited parking provision being retained for the Punch Bowl public house. This has the potential to cause conflict between the two uses and/or vehicles being parked on the adopted highway. Contrary to policies CS6 and MD2 of SAMdev.



www.shropshire.gov.uk
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

Continued on page 11

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Feeling a bit 'Bah, humbug!' about the coming yuletide season? Never fear! The LADS are here to bring back the true Spirit of Christmas – three of them, in fact.

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL', Charles Dickens' iconic tale of an ice-cold heart softened into warmth and generosity, is coming to Oswestry and Llanymynech this winter.

Adapted for the stage from the original story by Alison Utting, who also directs, this production promises to be full of contrasts: Dark and light, cold and warmth, bitterness and hope. With live music and colourful costumes, the classic tale will be brought to life for a whole new audience.

(Yes, we know the Muppets did it best, but we hope you will enjoy this production very nearly as much!)

Llanymynech Village Hall Friday 29th November

Saturday 30th November

Sunday 1st December (matinée)

The Hermon, Oswestry

Friday 6th December

Saturday 7th December

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(Continued from page 11) Decision letter

2. Insufficient information has been provided, in the form of a traffic statement, to satisfactorily demonstrate existing and proposed traffic movements to and from the site and that the vehicular access, parking and turning facilities are appropriate to meet the needs of the Punch Bowl public house and the dwellings proposed. The proposed parking provision must be justified and qualified as part of the transport statement. It is considered that the proposal development fails to comply with policies CS6 and MD2.

3. Insufficient information has been submitted to enable the Local Planning Authority to be able to fully consider the impact of the development on Heritage Assets with archaeological interest. Contrary to policy MD13 of the adopted SAMDev plan and paragraph 200 of the NPPF.

4. Insufficient information has been submitted as part of the outline application to allow for an adequate assessment of the impacts that this development would have upon the wider character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Contrary to the submitted Heritage Impact Assessment it is considered that on the basis of the details submitted the proposed development would result in a less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset (Conservation Area) and insufficient public benefits have been identified to outweigh this harm.

Therefore the proposed development is contrary Local Development Framework Core Strategy Policies CS6 and CS17, Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Policies MD2 and MD13 and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework. **24/02386/OUT, Tabitha Lythe, Planning & Development Services Manager, Date of Decision: 20th August 2024**

(Continued from page 9)

HICKSONS LANE. A resident reported the overgrown vegetation was reported to the Clerk, who contacted Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnership Team in July. She was subsequently informed that the vegetation had been cut back. The resident has now confirmed that SC had been out and cut back the vegetation and access was much improved. If this is not the case, then please let the Clerk know and she will contact them again.

FOOTBALL PITCH. The annual re-marking of the football pitch took longer as there were no lines to follow and the pitch had to be measured and marked from nothing.

The PC has received information and sketches from the manager of the West Felton Football Club and continues to be supportive of bringing the club back into the village as an important activity for young people and others. It is aware that significant grants can be secured from the

Football Association for grassroots football. The PC has agreed to approach the owners of the land close to and where the proposed pitch might be sited and will report back once we have a response.

Friday 20th Sept. I have been invited to a meeting with local MP Helen Morgan. If you have any issue you wish me to raise please let me know through the Clerk at **westfeltonpc@googlemail.com**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. In my last report I stated that we would look at a Community Engagement plan but this has been deferred until the October meeting. The Deputy Chair and I have had some detailed discussions on this matter and we will be preparing a paper for decision at that meeting. You are welcome to make any comments or contribution on how you think the Parish Council can communicate more effectively with you, please let me know through the Clerk. ♦

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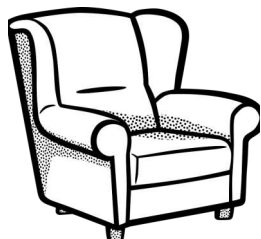


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Bacon baps £1 extra

Raffle

Sales tables for cakes,
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THE DOG

Ogden Nash, Monday, January 13, 2003.

The truth I do not stretch or shove
When I state that the dog is full of love.

I've also found, by actual test,
A wet dog is the lovingest.



Surprisingly, Robin, nobody likes
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WEST FELTON WI

It was back to regular monthly meetings in the Village Hall in September, after a busy summer of visits, Shows and outings.



The September meeting was held on the 12th, too late for this publication, more next month about the proceedings and the Guest Speaker's talk about The Evolution of Dance.

Thoughts are now turning to the Annual Meeting in November, the election of officers, and greeting new committee members. To get the best out of membership, members need to spend some time on the committee, getting involved in setting the programme of events, bringing each person's unique contribution to the social and fund-raising efforts for the year, joining in the selection of the guest speakers, and generally adding to the fun and friendship of the Institute. WFWI evolves with each new year, and each new set of members, yet remains recognisably a WI. West Felton has been doing this successfully for 103 years!

This year a new President will appear and will lead WFWI on to greater things for a year or two, or three. She will be supported by the present officers and past Presidents and will steer the group to another fun year for the fifty or so members. They will still sing Jerusalem, and some will make jam in the privacy of their own homes - but who knows what new and exciting events the new committee will come up with? ♦



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SECURED BY DESIGN SECURITY ADVICE GUIDE

Van Theft & Crime

Having your van or work vehicle stolen, broken into and contents stolen can be very distressing. Below we have listed a few simple steps you can take to keep your van, and what's in it, safe. By layering security with SBD approved products you help prevent theft and vehicle crime.



Top tips for van security



Don't Leave Valuables on Show

It might sound obvious but leaving valuables on show is an invitation to the opportunist criminal - mobile phones, satnavs and mounts, power leads, money, wallets, handbags, sunglasses, coats, jackets and bags should always be removed from the van or hidden well out of sight.



Hide Keys & Fobs

Keys and ignition fobs should be kept safe and out of sight and reach. A common way to steal a van is to take the keys or ignition fob, so never leave them in the vehicle, even if it's unattended for a moment. When at home ensure your keys or ignition fob are kept well away from windows or doors so that they cannot be seen by a potential thief, and never leave them close to the front door where they can be accessed through letterboxes.

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Approved: Quilter Financial Services Ltd and Quilter Mortgage Planning Ltd, July 2024.

PSCO Stuart Carroll, Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team

West Mercia Police writes:

I thought I would share with you some good news and also some very useful crime prevention material.

Our Rural & Business Crime Team contacted us recently with the latest rural crime figures and it made for very good reading. I have pasted an excerpt of it below:

Some good news that I would like to share is the substantial reduction in the cost of rural crime in Shropshire over the last 12 months. From figures obtained from the most recent NFU Mutual annual report there has been a 37% fall in reported crime across the county. Personally, I feel that is a direct result of some excellent work by detectives in our Serious Acquisitive Crime Team based at Shrewsbury, local police engagement with rural communities and valuable information and evidence from members of the public, the latter cannot be underestimated.

I have attached a series of very useful crime prevention advice leaflets that may be of benefit to yourselves, and also a link to the Secured by Design website where you will find more crime prevention advice, especially regarding rural crime, which you may want to include on your posters and newsletters.

Secured by Design - Crime Prevention & Security Advice

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I hope you find this helpful Kind regards

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Direct Dial: 101 Ext.7704043 | Team email: oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk

The leaflets can be read on the web site mentioned. We will publish them over time as space allows. The first appears on page 37.

(Continued from page 35) Rector's Ramblings
ry minute has been a huge blessing with some challenges thrown in too. Most recently of course a little thing called the Covid 19 pandemic.

I have loved getting to know you all and will miss you hugely when we move. Please do pop into church on a Monday

morning between 10-12pm to say hello and goodbye possibly at the same time. And please be assured of my prayers for you as I will appreciate yours for Darren and I, as we prepare to move in early November.

Every Blessing, Suzan

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The new year at West Felton CofE Primary School...

Each September hails the start of many an exciting chapter in life's rich tapestry; whether it be your child's first day at Nursery, Primary, Secondary, College or University, that heady mix of emotions can be overwhelming!

We welcomed 163 fantastic youngsters to West Felton CofE Primary School & Nursery this year and we have an engaging and enriching curriculum waiting for each and every one of them.

We have 6 classes here at West Felton, with 2 year groups in most...

Catkins

Catkins is where our youngest children start their journey. Joining us as they turn 2 years old. Miss Miller leads this class, she has been a pillar of the staffing body for 18 years. She is ably assisted by a team of Early Years specialists.

Acorn

Next, we have our Reception children. Reception is the first year of the National Curriculum. This class is also led by Miss Miller and an experienced member of staff, who has chosen to take the leap into Teacher Training herself this year.

Oak

Then we have Oak class. Oak houses our Year 1 and Year 2 children and is led by Mrs. Edge. Mrs. Edge joined our teaching team during Covid having worked in the federation. Her wealth of knowledge and experience has been a real asset.

Beech

Moving onto Beech, where our Y2 and Y3 children are taught by Miss Bunn. Miss Bunn was a pupil at West Felton (and a pleasure to teach!) She completed her ECT this year and we are privileged to have her.

Willow

Our penultimate class, teaching our Y4 and Y5 pupils led by Mrs. Morgan, who proceeds us all, with almost 25 years service under her belt. Mrs. Morgan is our PE and Forest School specialist; ensuring that our children are as active as possible.

Sycamore

Last, but by no means least, our final class where our Y5 and Y6 pupils learn before taking the next step to secondary school. Sycamore is led by Miss Parry, who has been with us since 2016, teaching throughout the school before taking up the mantle in Sycamore in 2020.

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Rector's Ramblings

Rev Suzan Williams

Some of you will have seen the notice in the last edition of the ripple.

That Darren and I will be moving on to pastures new, most likely at the beginning of November. I cannot believe at this point that I'm writing my penultimate issue of my Rector's Ramblings.

Firstly I would want you to know that the reason for our move is not because we have not been happy in Whittington and West Felton or Haughton. It's actually been the exact opposite and we have been very happy and felt very welcomed and cared for by you all. In fact I thought we would remain with you for a few more years yet and even till we retired!

But God had other plans! In Jeremiah 29:1-14 it says

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the Lord

And this passage has been central to not only my call but for Darren and I in all the years we have both been Christians. Following that call to trust in God and his plans and purposes not only for us as married couple but also for our children and grandchildren. Is what led

us to move to Shropshire in the first place in 2003 and then formed an important part of the call I felt to explore being Ordained from about 2005.

When I was ordained deacon in Hereford cathedral subsequently in 2011 part of liturgy for that service were these words,

"God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.³ The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit.⁴ In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom. To serve this royal priesthood, God has given a variety of ministries. Deacons are ordained so that the people of God may be better equipped to make Christ known. Theirs is a life of visible self-giving. Christ is the pattern of their calling and their commission; as he washed the feet of his disciples, so they must wash the feet of others."

And this for me has become the central focus of my work and ministry.

To live wholeheartedly in the communities in which we live and serve for the last thirteen years. In that time we have lived in a curates house in Church Stretton, a vicarage in High Ercall as part of what is now the Haughmond and Wrekin deanery and most recently in The Rectory in Whittington. And even-

(Continued on page 37)

Annual property review 2024

Are you curious about the value
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MEETING IN THE PUNCH BOWL 8PM, FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
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Lest we forget ...

Remembrancetide is a fortnight from 26th of October this year to Remembrance Sunday, and includes the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Wearing a poppy is a show of support for the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, veterans and their families.

- It represents all those who lost their lives on active service, from the beginning of the First World War right up to the present day.
- It also honours the contribution of civilian services and the uniformed services who contribute to national peace and security, and it acknowledges innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.

Remembering the courage of 1944 - This year marks the 80th anniversaries of momentous battles and turning points of the Second World War.

West Felton has long held a fine reputation for donating to the Poppy Appeal. Door to door collections can still be expected as well as the usual red Poppy collection boxes in shops and public houses. Times are hard now, so it must be even harder for injured service people and their families. **Let us remember them.**

The children of West Felton School will be remembering them by participating in the **Poppy Concert** on Friday evening 8th November in the village hall and again at the **War Memorial service** in the 11th. The usual Remembrance church services will be in St Michael's parish church, 9:30am and Pradoc Church, 10:30am on Sunday 10th November. ♦

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Looking forward in October

As you get older it is very easy to feel negative about everything—things are not what they were, it's all wrong and nothing makes sense. Except for the garden. There you can be positive that you will see another year and it will be better than the last. In October I will start to think about the next year, what I will change, what I will grow and what I will do better.

There will certainly be some changes. I was most unimpressed by the variety of cucumber we grew this year so hope to revert to what has succeeded for several years. In fact, I can't remember why we made a change. Our first early potatoes were also a change, in this case simply because of a mistake in ordering. The ones we got were a magnet for slugs—of course this could have been due to the wet season and an increase in eelworm/slug populations rather than due to the variety. All part of the mystery and interest of gardening. One more positive thing that will not change next year is that we were happy with the decision to not grow peas, which made room for more broad beans over an extended season.

One of the most pleasing looking forward activities for October is ordering seeds. For us, this will mean ordering on-line from the same three merchants we have used for several years. Splitting the order three ways does not make it too complicated but gives a

much wider choice of varieties than a single source or using a local garden centre. As always, we hope that no tried and trusted varieties have been discontinued.

Winter pruning will be well under way in October, as will projects to change planting schemes and hard landscaping. There will still be harvesting of later crops, including squash, potatoes, apples and the outdoor grapes. If you have a heated glasshouse, it will be time to turn on the heater and, for all glasshouses, it is a good time to clean the glass. Then, there is the clearing of the vegetable plots and, for many people, to start digging. We will be removing the mesh tunnels from maincrop carrots and leeks and hoping they have done their job of repelling pests.

House plants have increasingly become popular, not least due to the ever smaller gardens that are now provided. We will of course be bringing tender plants into the glasshouse just to keep them alive. We might also bring one or two things into our very small conservatory, but in the art of growing house plants we are completely hopeless. Our best achievement was keeping a citrus for three years (no fruit) but generally things last no more than a year with us. We think we are doing things correctly but the plant don't agree.

To end on a statistic, according to my records, this is the 200th garden column from Topiarius.

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News from Provence

Jim Pearce wrote on
15th August.

He and Gill were in **Le Muy** the first town in the South of France liberated as part of **Operation Dragoon**, a com-

bined airborne operation involving British, American, French and Canadian troops.

The anniversary is celebrated each year in grateful remembrance of the parachutists and gliders who, from dawn on 15th Aug 1944, liberated their town and stopped enemy reinforcements reaching the beaches where the Allied troops were landing.



In the afternoon there was a separate act of remembrance by the Nice branch of the Royal British Legion.

After the Allied Forces landed in Normandy, on 6 June 1944, the Allied High Command decided to open a second front, some six weeks later, in order to liberate Southern France and to trap the German Army in a pincer move-

ment with the Allied Army coming down from Normandy. This led to

OPERATION DRAGOON.

Operation Dragoon was considered a success by the Allied forces. It enabled them to liberate most of southern France in only four weeks, while inflicting heavy casualties on the German forces. ♦





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(Continued from page 29) Antidisestablishment.... caused such a split that a separate department of "Flying Bishops" had to be established. The attitude towards homosexuality and blessing of partnerships amongst same sex couples has caused further discord leading to the provision of a separate Bishop of Ebbsfleet who looks after evangelical parishes which hold that homosexuality is immoral...

The evangelical branch of the church also find the church buildings unsuitable for their style of worship. Traditional churches often find themselves hampered by pews, high ceilings, which make heating expensive, and architecture which is expensive to maintain. In France the state owns the church buildings: in England the position is complicated, but the temporal state certainly does not own them.

Any changes to a church are however limited by law and organisations such as English Heritage and the Victorian

society keep a close watch on what happens to them. Parliament can also pass laws to which the church must adhere.

With falling membership, splintering of beliefs and different approaches to worship, doubts have arisen about the universality of the church. Should the Church of England be disestablished and allowed to go its own way? Should Bishops even be part of the House of Lords whether it be reconstituted or not? Would the church wither even more if the state was no longer involved? More likely however parliament will wish to let sleeping dogs lie. The task of unravelling the constitutional arrangements of the established church is not one that most governments would wish to allocate time. Moreover the state might ask itself, harking back to Henry II and Henry VIII, whether keeping some sort of control on the church makes life easier for the temporal rulers. ♦

We recently mentioned some English words claiming they had no rhymes. An ingenious reader begs to differ - do you agree?

Month:	Sumph (Scottish) : A stupid or clumsy person
Silver:	Sliver
Bulb:	Zulb - Airport at Quinnan Libo, China (recognised by ICAO)
Orange:	Blorange: A hill near Abergavenny, Wales
Silver:	Chilver - A female lamb
Purple:	Curple - The hindquarters of a donkey
Wolf:	Gulf
Rhythm;	Schism
Woman:	Grumman: An aircraft manufacturer
Walrus:	Polypus:- an archaic word for 'polyp'.



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WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL

Your village hall committee is pleased to report that our hall continues to be well used for regular groups meeting during the day and on every evening of the week.



Weekend use is on the increase with various events booked out as far as March 2025 (keep an eye out in this magazine and on the hall noticeboards).

With so much usage it is key that the hall infrastructure is maintained at a high level and we are thankful for the support of our local contractors.

On the electrical side of things, P&S Electrical are always on hand to tend with any issue, and to ensure we are operating at the latest standards.

Our most recent infrastructure challenge has been the weakened floor in front of the first set of emergency exit doors.

This has been a long running issue but is now resolved following a full week hall closure during which Birch & Sons builders did a great job replacing joists and laying new floorboards as required. ♦

It's a dilemma ...

An extract from Shropshire Family History Society 'Thoughts from the Chair'.

"Now we have the task of clearing Mum's house - somewhere she had lived for 64 years. In doing so, my siblings and I have come across items, paperwork and memorabilia of which the origin is unknown or only to be guessed at, including a teddy who looks like he was very much loved! He sat on her couch for many years but I had never thought to ask to whom he belonged. I am fairly sure it wasn't Mum's and I think I might know whose it was, although it will only ever be a guess. But how do you get rid of such a previously loved item?! It has certainly brought home to me how important it is to make sure any 'old' documents, memorabilia and photographs are labelled in some way so that, when others are having to sort through my 'stuff', including all my family history information, they know to whom they belonged or related to, who are in the photographs, and why I kept them all". ♦

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Antidisestablishmentarianism

Michael Davie

Antidisestablishmentarianism is probably remembered by most people as the longest non-scientific, non-contrived word in the English language. It features in dictionaries published in England, but American dictionaries frequently omit it. The word has featured many times in the past: why is it in the news now?

The Church of England is established as the official state church. Henry VIII began the process after splitting with Rome. Following the turmoil of the Civil war and further arguments about religion, the Act of Settlement was passed in 1701. This decreed, amongst other things, that the monarch, as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, should be a Protestant and should neither be a Roman Catholic nor married to one. At the time, apart from a few minor sects, religion was either Catholic or Protestant.

During the following two centuries however, whilst Catholicism held itself together, Protestantism began to splinter into different forms. Methodism arose, and the Church of England itself grew different followings. The 19th century Oxford movement in the church became almost more catholic than the Pope. In 1868 Gladstone and the Whig party (today's Liberals) were returned to parliament, partly on the question of disestablishment of the church in Ireland (at that time part of the UK). Ireland, being largely catholic, objected to an established Protestant church. Gladstone, always wishing to

resolve the "Irish Problem", was able to pass an act through parliament disestablishing the Irish church. Not everyone agreed with the process and an antidisestablishment movement was formed. Movement for disestablishment was also strong in Wales and the Liberal government in 1914 passed the Welsh disestablishment act. This made four Welsh Dioceses independent of the Crown. There was some re-organisation however since parishes such as Whittington and Oswestry were in the St Asaph Diocese in Wales and were moved to Lichfield. Welsh border churches had the option of moving to England if they wished and Rhydygroesau was one of these.

The issue has arisen again with the declining membership of the Church of England, the ongoing disagreements within the Church about what it believes and the church estate. Attendance at church services has been declining ever since the turn of the 20th century. The First World war caused people to wonder whether there was a God, and if there was, what was he doing allowing all the slaughter. As landed estates broke up, many people previously in their employ or their tenants no longer felt an obligation to go to church. Average attendance in the Church of England is now about 650,000/week (1% of the population) compared with 3,500,000/week (10% of the population) in the 1920's. The Church of England has suffered much internal dissension in the last half century. The ordination of women

(Continued on page 31)