

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
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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	07543 040618
QUEENS HEAD RESTAURANT	01691 610255
RAIL STATION, GOBOWEN	01691 681010
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH: Fr Philip Holy Mass Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 10 am	01691 652248
RSPCA Shropshire Branch	07703 567935
SAMARITANS	116 123
SCHOOL – West Felton C E School	01691 610388
SHOP: West Felton Stores	01691 610863
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	0345 6789000
Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789020
Shrops Councillor: Cllr David Walker	01743 256863/ M 07484 541576
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: MINISTRY vacant	
Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
ST. CHAD'S: Chapel Warden: Mrs Ann Hampson	01691 610845
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	01691 610665
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: President: Rhian	07375 997 782

Year 32

NOVEMBER 2025

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

Supporting local business - Supporting the community

POPPY CONCERT

The Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir

WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL

Friday 7th November 7:30pm

featuring the children

of West Felton School

Tickets £6 from the Shop, or Legion Members

For more information call 610629



Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 22nd November - West Felton Village Hall

See page 21

Parish Council Second Tues of the month, 7:30 School Hall

West Felton Walkers 10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT...see page 34

Pilates Class Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book online GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904456368

Tai Chi Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall

Badminton Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall

Tuesday Tots Every term time Tuesday 9.15 - 10.30 West Felton 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 INFORMAL MEETINGS 8pm Meeting, PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

25th Oct	7:30pm HOPE HOUSE QUIZ VILLAGE HALL	
3rd Nov	WF BRITISH LEGION AGM PUNCH BOWL	
6th Nov	10-12noon COMMUNITY Coffee Morning Village Hall.	19
6th Nov	7:30pm CARVERY NIGHT in aid of Hope House, PUNCH BOWL	15
7th Nov	7:30pm POPPY CONCERT West Felton Village Hall	COVER
9th Nov	10am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE, ST MICHAEL'S	
11th Nov	11am SERVICE AT WAR MEMORIAL WITH WF SCHOOL	
22nd Nov	Special CHRISTMAS Coffee Morning Village Hall	21
28th Nov	6pm CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON - Alma Close	28/29
10th Dec	7pm VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS BINGO	19
14th Dec	3pm COMMUNITY CAROLS St Michael's Church	
13th Dec	ILLUMINATED TRACTOR RUN.	
24th Dec	6pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ST MICHAEL'S	



What's new?

Page 19 New locksmith service
Pages 16/17 Help at Home Age Concern service
Page 24/25 West Felton Exercise/DanceFit classes

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Round and About West Felton

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

**Last day for submission of copy and
deadline for content changes
10th NOVEMBER 2025**

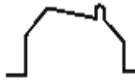
Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

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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 07955 232 199
 Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School & SALC Area Committee)

Cllr Alastair FORBES 01691 610 524
 Cllr Mick GREEN 07928 479 305
 Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).
 Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354 (Rep SALC Area Committee).
 Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400
 Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)
 Cllr Neil SUMMERS 07523 318 005
 Cllr David WALKER 01691 897 117

Our Shropshire Councillor : Cllr David Walker T: 01743 256863
 Mobile: 07484 541576

Our Member of Parliament : Helen Morgan T: 01939 809387
 E: helen.morgan.mp@parliament.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS	
10 February 2026	
11 November 2025	10 March 2026
9 December 2025	14 April 2026
13 January 2026	12 May 2026

To Contact the Parish Council

Clerk – Rosemary Wood – 01939 262881

Email: westfeltonpc@googlemail.com

Website Address - <https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk>

Under the main heading 'Contacts' on first page

click on a named person

and you will be taken to an email contact form to write to them.

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**Report from West Felton Parish Chairman,
Cllr John Thornhill**

Planning Application – Old Rectory Gardens. Council considered a planning application from Milford Fox Ltd on behalf of Chartland Developments to build 10 houses on a site North of Old Rectory Gardens. The proposed development is on approximately 1.1 hectares of land to the north of the unclassified road, Old Rectory Gardens, in West Felton, approximately 6.5km to the southeast of Oswestry. The scheme put forward is for eight open market and two affordable properties. The site is within the Conservation Area for the village. Conservation orders are legal instruments used to protect natural habitats, species, and other features of special interest. They vary by location but often include measures like Special Nature Conservation Orders (SNCOs) for European sites, which require consent for activities that could damage them, and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect specific trees. The purpose is to prevent deterioration and ensure the long-term health of protected areas, habitats and species. Whilst there are no specific orders on this site such a development would detract

from the area and reduce the amount of open agricultural land in the village with subsequent impact on a variety of native species within the area.

The site is at the far end of The Avenue from the main village and there have been concerns expressed about speeding on that road. Whilst the documents argue that no personal injury collisions have been reported within the search area in the latest five-year period the increase of traffic on that road from the development would increase the risk of serious and or fatal accidents. It is a common route used by dog walkers and other family events and there is limited pavement area. Concerns have been expressed at public meetings in the last few years over speeding within the village and the Parish Council is trying to respond positively to this issue so does not want increased traffic on that road.

It was felt that some of the properties – Plots 4 and 5 - were not in keeping with the styles of housing in the rest of the village and Con-

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(Continued from page 7)

servation area with reference to Dutch style Barns.

Council was particularly concerned that the Technical Note provided would seem to suggest that Shropshire Council had in fact had informally given agreement to a plan. It states; *'Within the pre-application consultation with SC Highways (PREAPM/24/00221 on 12/02/2025) they confirmed that a proposal for 10 dwellings would be acceptable in principle subject to the access, visibility, parking and turning facilities being commensurate with the local conditions and highway safety. The Highways team confirmed that the proposed single point of access onto the private drive/road is welcomed and supported. However, a few points were raised, and these have been addressed in the new layout and within this Technical Note.'* We do not agree.

Reports from the local press state "Mr Bruce, Senior Planning consultant at Berrys, said there were no objections from Shropshire Council officers to the farmstead agricultural style of development."

The report adds; *'The site is considered to have a low risk of flood from watercourses, surface water and reservoirs. Mr Bruce said it envisages that a drainage condition will be imposed on any planning permission for*

full details of future surface water and foul designs.' However the Council is still concerned with other flooding issues in the village which have not been fully rectified despite action by Shropshire Council.

Council oppose this application for all the reasons stated above but is not opposed to housing development in the village. Over last 10 years it has supported developments in West Felton. Further it is now being proactive in establishing a Neighbourhood plan for the village focussed on housing development as evidenced by its the agreement made some years ago for a designated development site of 60 houses in another part of the village. This would have been incorporated in the Shropshire Local plan had it not been rejected by national Inspectors.

I urge the Shropshire Council Cabinet member and our local MP, Helen Morgan to support our objection to this application and support our efforts to re-introduce previous agreements for the betterment of the village and protect the importance of the Conservation Area.

Anyone who wishes to comment on the scheme (reference 25/03651/FUL) can do so by October 30 on the Shropshire County Planning website. We would encourage members of the community to do so.

(Continued on page 9)



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(Continued from page 8)

Neighbourhood Plan. In previous reports I have commented on our proposal to create a Neighbourhood Plan and that the initial application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area went before Shropshire Cabinet on 10 September. As previously reported Cllr John Thornhill (Chairman), Cllr Ozcan Ozagir (Vice Chairman), Rosemary Wood (Parish Clerk) met with Shropshire Council staff - Eddie West (Head of Planning Policy), Rosie Corner (Policy & Neighbourhood Planning Officer). It was a productive and very informative meeting in helping us to progress the creation of the Parish plan. A Neighbourhood Plan is a **community-led document** that provides a vision for future development in a local area, allowing **residents** to influence where new homes, shops, and offices are built, and to shape the design and infrastructure of these developments. These plans, created by local communities rather than the planning authority, become part of the Local Plan and **carry legal weight** in deciding planning applications. They are a tool for communities to ensure that development meets local needs and aligns with local priorities. Following that meeting we sought quotations from a number of consultants about the costs of such a development, which can take two to three years to progress. During that time

there would be regular meetings of the Planning Team at times suited to the members, and progress and suggestions would be fully discussed. The focus would be on creating a plan that identifies where housing developments would be appropriate in the village taking account of previous agreement sites.

There was full discussion about this issue and it was agreed to progress the matter with a public meeting in the future so parishioners can attend and discover fully what it involved. We also agreed to focus the Plan entirely on housing development within the village.

It is a requirement that non-council members be part of the Planning Team so if you are interested in being involved then please contact myself or our Clerk.

Traffic Calming Measures. Developments in this area have been under consideration for some time. We received a number of volunteers prepared to be involved in the Community Speed Watch scheme but understand that the response to requests from the police for relevant details has been limited. Without the details this scheme cannot progress.

Two onsite meetings have taken place to consider sites for the Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs. The

(Continued on page 11)

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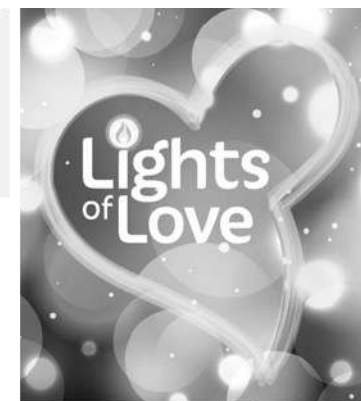


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Sunday 7 December

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Lights of Love is a continuation of the outstanding care we provide for local people every day of the year and we hope it brings you comfort. Everything we do is only possible thanks to your support. Thank you.

There is a free shuttle bus for Lights of Love, running between the Ox-on Park and Ride and our Bicton Heath hospice. Let us know if you would like space aboard when you make your dedication.

And, if you are unable to join us on Sunday 7 December, you can still dedicate a light in our tree. As well as our thanks, we can send to you a complimentary tea-light holder to use at home on the day so you can share the moment with us.

Please ensure your dedications are with us by 16 November so we have time to record them in the commemorative programme.

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(Continued from page 9)

most recent was just after the last Council meeting with a member of one of the Shropshire Council's recommended suppliers and installers. We identified appropriate sites to include the current two signs on Holyhead Road with updated signs. In recent communications he reported that Shropshire Council would not allow us to replace the current signs with more effective solar ones. This is despite the previous site visit with the Traffic Management team member of Shropshire Council who said we could!! The left hand does not know what the right is doing!! It is officials who are preventing the Parish Council from responding positively to concerns expressed by parishioners!●

So, HOW DO I JOIN??

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VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE - As will be seen from the What's on? list, our Village hall is a great asset for our village. And it is **OUR** village hall. Self-funding, managed and maintained entirely by volunteers, new committee members are always welcomed. Just contact **Ian on 07740 485925 or Eileen on 01691 610629.**

THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE - Would love new members, with new ideas; ring **Eileen on 01691 610629.**

WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL - The Parish Clerk always lets us know in this magazine when there is a vacancy on the council. For full information contact **Rosemary, details on page 5.**

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS - Teams of volunteers organise each month, contact **Christine 01691 610665 or Eileen 01691 610629.**

WEST FELTON WI - For fun and friendship, Contact **Rhian on 07375 997782 .**

And **THE CHURCHES** - St Michael's Parish Church with St Chad's and Pradoc Church - services as noted in this magazine - just turn up and expect to be given a friendly welcome and a cup of tea and a biscuit. Christmas time features several different opportunities as well as the usual Sunday services.



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2025/2026...



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October
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17th October
Quiz Night

5th
December
Christmas gifts

12th
February
Movie Night

5th March
World Book Day

27th-29th
March
Easter Trail

27th March
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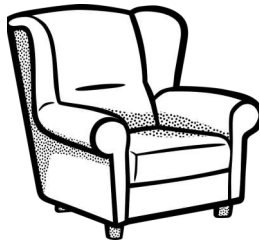


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From Jo and the Carnival Committee

CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON

28 November, 6pm at the entrance to Alma Close.

The Carnival Committee is happy to provide the 2025 CHRISTMAS TREE for West Felton and the opportunity to hang special baubles for your loved ones. *To place your order for your personalised bauble(s) please pay either using PayPal at www.paypal.me/WFCarnival, including the names you'd like on the bauble(s) in the comments. Alternatively, complete the form on page 29.*

You can watch the complex process from picking the tree, to it being put into position on our Facebook page.

This year the proceeds of the baubles sale go to The Movement Centre which provides support to Shropshire children and their families living with movement difficulties.



AN A CAPPELLA CONCERT

by

“THE SCHOLARS & GENTLEMEN”

Director: Mike Donkin



Featuring the music
of

MONTEVERDI



SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER 7:00pm

In Whittington Parish Church
With Refreshments available

TICKETS: £12 on the door

In aid of the Whittington Music Festival

(Continued from page 42)

him and he was just nineteen himself, but he became very attached to them – they were his responsibility. The work was dangerous and nasty - one night he had just taken the platoon through a shallow communication trench leading to a crossroads, when persistent shelling started - small shells normally called pip-squeaks intermingled with mustard gas shells. So they sat in the trench with their gas masks on until things quietened down and then resumed working. They moved portable footbridges through 'no man's land', repaired barbed wire fences, again in no-mans land with both sides firing at them. Long, dirty and very dangerous work but done as a team - all looking out for one another.

After his first leave he found that his Captain had left and Mr King took command as the senior officer on length of service with the Company from early April 1918 to the November Armistice Day. The average life of a subaltern at the front during that period was nineteen days.

Almost immediately after Armistice the battalion was given the job of staging post for repatria-

tion. Over 2,000 men passed through that camp staying just a couple of days before embarking for home. Mr King was demobilised early as he intended to go the University for a degree in Civil Engineering, but this was not possible as his family could not afford to send him and there were no grants in those days. So Mr King went back to the Westminster Bank. When Mr King sits for the two minute silence at the British Legion meetings he looks back and sees men he served with and the memories he has of those times.



Illustration by Brian Mabe



REMEMBRANCE 2025

Remembrance Sunday service at
St Michael's church -
10am 9th November

Service with the school children at
West Felton War Memorial -
11am Tuesday 11th November

LOOKING BACK

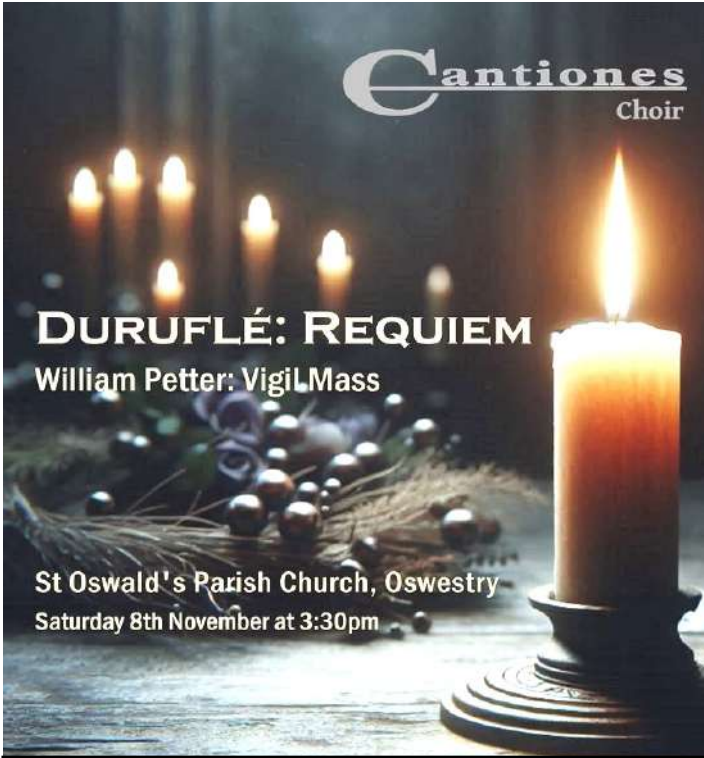
Recollections of Mr William King of Church Cottage, West Felton, 1992.

On the 9th September 1916 (his 18th birthday) Mr William King reported to Mill Hill Barracks for his medical to join the 7th London Regiment (also known as The Artists Rifles). He was passed A1 and given a shilling (*having memorised the sight cards on the previous occasions when he had failed his eyesight test*). He spent the next six months at Gidea Park in Essex training, and successfully passed out as a fully trained Infantryman. He was transferred to the Officer Training Corp and after six months of extremely hard work his name appeared in the London Gazette. His pay went up from one shilling to ten shillings and sixpence.

Having transferred to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry he was attached to the Enniskillen Fusiliers billeted in the very old Portsdown forts surrounding Portsmouth, built (though never

finished) to prevent Napoleon from landing. Soon after a week's embarkation leave he entrained for France at Victoria Station. At Rouen he was posted to the 5th DCLI which was the Divisional Pioneer Battalion. Most of the men were recruited in Cornwall and had worked in the tin mines or china clay pits and were handy with a pick and shovel. Every Infantry Division had nine infantry battalions and one pioneer but even as pioneers they had to take rifles and side arms wherever they were working. The Division, the 61st, was commonly called the "sixty worst" and had suffered very heavy losses just before Mr King arrived. There were only four officers in the Company and shortly after Mr King arrived a German shell landing nearby meant that one of the four was sent back to England badly wounded. He will never forget what he saw there, every puddle was yellow with mustard gas and wherever you looked there were dead mules with their legs in the air. The pioneers were responsible for the construction and repairs to the lines and were out after dark repairing breaches and damaged sections of the front. His platoon all looked young to

(Continued on page 43)



Cantiones
Choir

DURUFLÉ: REQUIEM
William Petter: Vigil Mass

St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry
Saturday 8th November at 3:30pm

Tickets £15 / under 18s FREE
Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/cantioneschoir
Or Siop Cwlwm, Bailey Street, Oswestry,
and on the door.
www.cantiones.org.uk

This choir is now recruiting for the Tenor section.

If you are a tenor and would be interested in singing with Cantiones, please contact:
Info
@cantiones.org.uk

(see page 39 for details).

WEST FELTON HARVEST SUPPER

The village hall was full, every table occupied, the food as delicious as usual and as plentiful.

What a splendid night!
Many thanks to all the members of the PCC for such a delightful community event. Next big PCC event is the special Christmas coffee morning on 22nd November.



Our Help at Home service enables you to remain independent at home and enjoy life.

Your friendly Support Worker can assist with: vacuuming, dusting, bathroom and kitchen cleaning, laundry and ironing, shopping and collecting prescriptions.

The two-hour visits are by the same Support Worker each time and we can make sure you're receiving all the benefits you're entitled to.

Call 01743 233 788 or email enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1090445



Clare with David and Barra



LADS

THIS CHRISTMAS

Llanymynech Amateur Dramatic Society
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Friday, 28 November at Kinnerley Parish Hall
(7.45pm)

Saturday, 29 November at Welshampton Village
Hall (7.45 pm)

Sunday, 30 November at Oswestry Senior
Citizens Club (3.30pm)

Saturday, 6 December at Llanymynech Village
Hall (7.45 pm)

Sunday, 7 December at Llanymynech Village
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Helping you to stay independent at home



Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin is a local charity dedicated to improving the lives of older people throughout the county.

One of the ways the charity can help is through its Help at Home service, designed to help individuals stay independent and safe in their own homes. After an enquiry or referral, one of the charity's experienced assessors will arrange a home visit to understand your needs and how best they can help.

The service is delivered by a team of caring and reliable Home Support Workers, all of whom have undergone DBS checks and provided strong references. They assist with everyday tasks that may have become difficult or that you might usually rely on your family to manage.

Typical tasks include:

- Vacuuming and dusting.
- Cleaning kitchens and bathrooms.
- Laundry, ironing and changing bedding.
- Shopping and collecting prescriptions.

Visits are typically offered in two-hour blocks, and the same Support Worker visits each time helping to build a friendly and trusting relationship. The service is flexible to changing needs and supported by an office team to keep the family informed.

In addition to practical help, the charity can conduct a benefits check to ensure you're receiving all the financial support you're entitled to.

David is one of the many people who benefits from the Help at Home service. He receives support with cleaning, laundry, and shopping from his Home Support Worker, Clare, who has been part of the team for over four years.

"A very helpful lady helped me fill out the forms for attendance allowance and with the extra income I can afford services like Help at Home."

"Having Clare visit is great. It helps to know the house is clean as my wife was very particular about it when she was alive. We always enjoy a cup of coffee together and a chat. It's nice to have someone to talk to every week and her work means I get to spend more time with my dog, Barra."

To get Help at Home apply now by calling 01743 233 788

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Our conductor is Tony Coupe.

The first two concerts under his baton were a resounding success, full of energy and enthusiasm.

We rehearse on Tuesday nights at Christ Church, Oswestry.

Our next concert will be on 8th November 2025 comprising the serene Requiem by Maurice Durufle and the Vigil Mass by William Petter. See page

If you are a tenor and would be interested in singing with Cantiones please contact: info@cantiones.org.uk

(Continued from page 27) Up the garden path

either too busy with maintenance jobs or hiding from the weather to spend much time looking at flowers. However, it is a time when you can see the structure of the garden with an eye for possible improvements.●

Annual property review

Are you curious about the value of your home?

- Have you made cosmetic changes in the past 12 months?
- Have you simply outgrown your home?
- Was the last time you had your home valued 2+ years ago?
- Do you understand how to maximise the value of your home?

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CHRISTMAS



WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL

7pm - Wednesday 10th December

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(Continued from page 35)

unless he took someone with him.

One suggestion was made that a social worker might be more appropriate – and possibly less expensive.

Attending parish events was stressed as important in order to meet people, although the average time of 5 years that a priest stays is barely sufficient either to get to know people or to take an interest in the church building.

Analysis followed about whether we could afford for what we wanted. There was uncertainty about what a clergyperson actually did and many were the comments along the lines of "they seem to spend an awful lot of time doing nothing". One participant recollected that in a previous church they had been unable to get a review of the work that the priest was doing. There was a general feeling that we paid a lot and got little back. The Chairman noted that each clergyperson costs the Diocese about £65,000. About 10% of this paid for Diocesan staff; the rest was essentially clergy pay. Although the stipend is £33,000, there are a considerable number of expenses paid, all free of tax, including a house which equates to a salary of about £55,000. Above this a church has to find around £7000/yr for insurance, electricity and heating. The possibility of having part time priests was reviewed, but while attractive to a church, the post might be less attractive to an individual unless he or she

was of retirement age and still willing to undertake priestly duties. There was also the problem of such a person receiving the necessary training. It was suggested that the church should show greater flexibility with its use of clergy and possibly even have a two tier system. Such a process would mirror the situation in medicine where a GP looks after local issues and consults a specialist for more serious conditions. The specialists in the church would be the fully trained clergy who could be called in to do funerals, weddings and baptisms. The PCC does not pretend to have found an answer to the problem of finding a clergyperson, It does hope that it shows that it is thinking, even "outside the box", on behalf of the parish and that it is open to the suggestions of others. •



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Two Coffee Mornings in November - what a treat!
The Community event as usual on first Thursday in
November, the 6th, then on Saturday 22nd we have
the Biennial Special Christmas Coffee Morning
organised by the PCC. Different stalls, plants, gifts,
raffle, a lovely start to the festive season.



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

in the
Village Hall

**10am Saturday
22nd November
Stalls - Raffle
Refreshments**

**West Felton Branch
Annual General Meeting**

3rd November

The Punch Bowl



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The role of the rural priest

Michael Davie

At a recent PCC meeting an interesting discussion developed about the role of a priest in a rural church. A comment that started the dialog concerned our Parish share – a payment to the Diocese - of £20,000 annually. This sum continues to be payable during the interregnum and its amount made the members wonder what we got from it and how it could best be used given that it seems unlikely that we shall get a full time priest. One solution is the Minster model in which a priest from a centre comes out to do Sunday services. Some members with experience of a similar model felt that this only worked if the clergyperson got involved with the community – a people person had in their experience been a success. Getting the right person is important and many reports emphasize that it is fatal to appoint someone about whom there are doubts, just because of a feeling that “we must appoint someone”.

This led on to an examination of what a priest might be expected to do. How many services are reasonable on a Sunday with three or four being favoured. What a priest was required for in a service was scrutinised: in a communion the absolution, blessing of bread and wine and a sermon was needed: in a matins only a sermon. Several ideas were proposed about

getting a sermon in the absence of a priest. It might be possible to find a lay person with the necessary training. Alternatively there are people in the higher echelons of the Diocese who might deliver a sermon by means of an audio-visual presentation, either live or recorded. The Diocese has 4 Bishops, 4 Archdeacons, a Dean and several assistant Archdeacons. For the 52 Sundays and the few special days such as Good Friday and the Ascension and Christmas a sermon 6 times a year each should not be too exacting.

Taking a Sunday service might require a half day preparation and a morning – indeed one priest might look after two churches. There are however other duties including funerals, weddings, baptisms, attending parish events and visiting that members felt were important. Funerals and weddings are not frequent events in rural churches like West Felton. Recently our annual corpus of such events is one wedding, three funerals and a couple of baptisms – hardly enough to justify a vicar, though if they were paid it might inspire them to encourage more. The most valuable service that a vicar could do was the one that Safeguarding has discouraged. Such has been the misbehaviour of some clergy that strict rules are now applied to visiting. One clergyman told me that at a recent meeting to renew Safeguarding he was told not to visit

(Continued on page 37)

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West Felton Walking Group

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

EXCEPT on the first Monday
of the month when departure
is 9:30 to allow time to travel
to our chosen destination for

the away day walk.

New members always
welcome.

Walk leaders:-

Mike Bossen 01691 610623

Hilary Iles 01691 610707

John & Eileen Hanmer
01691 610629



West Felton Women's Institute

Autumn 2025



After the summer break we met in September to enjoy our biennial craft and produce show. Many skills were on display, from craft to cookery, fruit and veg growing, photography and flower arranging. There were impressive chocolate cakes, tempting soda breads, colourful fruit curds, attractive wreaths and lengthy runner beans to name just a few of the categories. Many thanks to our independent judges who undertook the task of assessing the anonymised entries and to all members involved with the stewarding and admin, as well as the setting up undertaken by members and the Village Hall team. Cup winners included Aly S, Gillian S, Jo L and Yvette O whilst the cup for the most points overall was scooped by Jo L. Such talent!

We were also pleased to welcome local author Dave Andrews, current writer in residence at Oswestry Library and author of the Oswestry-based detective stories. We heard about his creation of Inspector Probert and gained an insight into the world of publishing. Copies were acquired for our own library and individual purchases were also made. As ever, delicious cakes provided a tasty end to the evening when we admired all the show entries on display and enjoyed each other's company. Many thanks to our busy trio of hostesses and to Pat for organising our popular raffle.

Outings have included lunch at The Old Coffee Pot in Oswestry and the opportunity to go on the County trip to the Hat Museum in Stockport where we were given a fascinating tour (or should that be fascinater...?!)

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Village Hall.
Do ring 07375997782 if you would like to come along.

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- Loryn Brantz

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Message from Ian Walker, West Felton

As well as the October quiz night in West Felton village hall when all proceeds go to Hope House, and the Carvery night, **see page 15**, I am taking part in Strictly Shropshire as a professional dancer on **Fri 28 November in The Lion Quays** and will be partnering with the lovely Jane, who is a beginner dancer, in front of 400+ people, all in support of Hope House children's hospice.

In tandem with the Strictly event, I would also, personally, like to raise funds in support of the local children with a life-threatening condition and their families from Shropshire, Cheshire and Wales, who rely on Hope House. Thank you so much.

**Every donation made will be doubled as part of their
Quality Moments Matter campaign.
Please support me if you can.**

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For those with some pilates experience who want a slightly more challenging class, the **Intermediate/Advanced Pilates** class adds deeper strength work and precision, helping you develop balance, tone, and body awareness. In this session we flow through the movements and some more demanding layers are offered, although everyone still works at their own appropriate level.

If you love music and movement, the **Dance Fit class** is a blast! A cardio-based, dance-inspired workout suitable for all abilities, it's designed to boost fitness, coordination, and mood — and it's guaranteed to put a smile on your face. No dance experience is needed, just a willingness to move, laugh, and enjoy yourself.

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Come along, give it a try — meet new friends, move your body, and leave feeling fabulous! **See my new advertisement on page 24.**



ABIGAIL CHARLOTTE



Oswestry Rural South SNT
(oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk)



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PCSO Kurt Mabe 07870 219669

PCSO Stuart Carroll M: 07970 544372 | Direct Dial: 101 Ext. 7704043

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Entering the dark period

The clocks have been put back (Spring forward, Fall back) so there is absolutely no evening gardening. The list of November jobs is quite short but that masks the amount of winter pruning, clearing and making changes to the garden that needs to be done, so when weather allows I shall be far from idle. Plants needing some protection will come inside after the annual clearing and cleaning of the glasshouse. This includes lifting begonia tubers. Pruning includes shortening floribunda roses and any necessary pruning of shrub roses. It is also a good time for pruning currants and gooseberries. I will order soil conditioner fairly early in the month ready for spreading in December. Hopefully, I shall eventually get the vegetable plots in good no-dig condition. One of my least favourite chores starting now is to clear leaves from the grass and paths. They can go on the compost heap if you have enough other material to mix with them.

Growing the runner beans in wigwams rather than a double row was definitely a success, both easier and more wind resistant. A bit late for this year, but I realised that wigwams make it more convenient to make sowings in succession, which seeing as we always have a glut of beans must be a good idea. Must remember it for next time.

We had something approaching a

plague of wasps in a glasshouse this year where the attraction was a fan trained apricot. However, their presence had nothing to do with the fruit which had long been eaten, but they appeared to be feeding on a mould that we get on the leaves (despite fungicide). They didn't actually cause any trouble nor damage the apricot but, mysteriously, they suddenly disappeared sometime in September. Can anyone throw any light on this?

I am not entirely sure why, but we took it into our heads to go to the Hardy Plant Society AGM and Lecture Day which was held on the outskirts of Nottingham (the hotel and dinner out might have had something to do with it). The day was quite interesting but rather doubt I would go again. However, we did have two very good garden visits. Felley Priory is largely arranged as a series of rooms with an abundance of impressive topiary. It was the most meticulously maintained garden I can remember seeing. We had previously failed to look at Bluebell Arboretum because it was flooded when we visited (but we did buy plants). This time we were successful in touring the beautifully laid out space with the best naming system for the trees I have ever seen.

November is possibly the least floriferous month but the fact is that I shall be

(Continued on page 39)



WEST FELTON CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Happy, once again, to provide

- the CHRISTMAS TREE for West Felton,
- personalised Baubles for your loved ones,
- Proceeds go to The Movement Centre.

Make it special for your family,

Order your baubles now,

be ready for the

big Christmas Tree light up on

28th November 6pm

Order form on page 29.

You can also order and pay at

<https://www.paypal.me/WFCarnival>

Eileen Hanmer 610629

CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

The Carnival committee is pleased once again to present the village 2024 Christmas Tree.

Christmas Tree switch-on will take place on

Friday 28 November at 6pm

at the entrance to Alma Close.

As usual there will be mulled wine and mince pies free of charge.

By popular demand we will be repeating the Personalised Baubles to raise cash for a local charity.

Coloured baubles will be personalised and sold at a cost of **£2.50p per bauble** and placed upon the tree.

This is an ideal opportunity for you to have the name of your child, a loved one, a pet etc hanging on our village tree this Christmas - a little personal touch!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE MOVEMENT CENTRE

To place your order of your personalised bauble(s) please complete the form below and return with payment to:

Sharon Arthur,
51, Applewood Heights
01691 610767

Eileen Hanmer,
Lawn House
01691 610629

You can also order and pay at
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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
BAUBLE NAME - ONLY ONE NAME PER BAUBLE		£2.50 PER BAUBLE
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		