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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 Oswestry Police Station Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	101 0300 333 3000
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 Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789000 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 33

MARCH 2026

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

SPRING FAIR



Food : Plants
Arts & Crafts

WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 14th MARCH

10:30pm - 2:30pm FREE ENTRY

Refreshments available
Contact Christine 01691 610665

See page 27



West Felton
Village Hall
**Wednesday
25th MARCH**

See page 25

WHAT'S ON

Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 School Hall
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT...see page 19
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.

5th March	10am COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING Village Hall
7th March	12-2pm LENT LUNCH, West Felton Village Hall
14th March	10:30-2:30pm SPRING FAIR - Village hall. Free entry, refreshments available.
25th March	7pm FAMILY EASTER BINGO Village Hall
12th July	CARNIVAL DAY.

Knockin & Kinnerley Cricket Club - see page 25

Saturday 21st March - KKCC annual quiz night at Kinnerley VH
Saturday 13th June - KKCC Sponsors & VP Luncheon, followed by a reunion for ex-members.

Monday to Friday 10th-14th August - Junior Summer Camp.

Sunday 30th August – ‘Knockin-around’, our annual fun day, with cricket, hot food, live music, stalls and games.

For all the very latest KKCC news, events and fixtures please visit our website www.kkcc.co.uk or follow us on social media – you can find our numerous channels by going to linktr.ee/KnockinandKinnerleyCC.



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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 MARCH 2026

Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

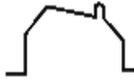
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WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

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 March 2026 | 14 April 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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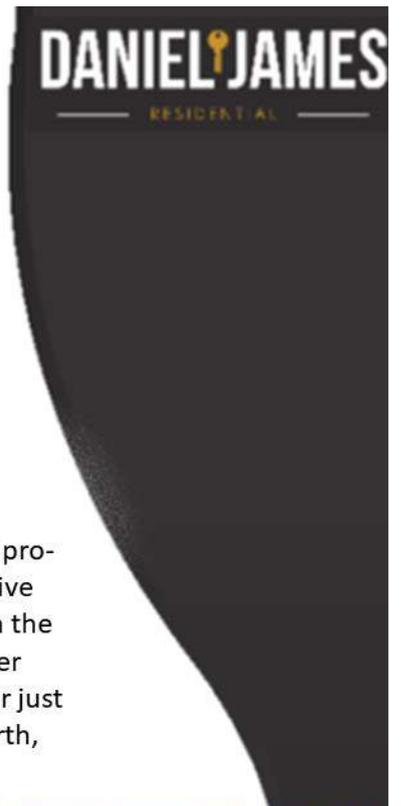
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Neighbourhood Plan Meeting 17th January

Report from West Felton Parish Chairman, Cllr John Thornhill

The Parish Council was pleased to see so many members of the parish attend the presentation on the role and purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan in the development of the Parish. As Chair of the Council I presented a visual explanation setting out how such a plan could help West Felton remain a rural village. The legal basis for planning development is the Statutory Development Plan which every local planning authority in England should have. Our Neighbourhood Plan would be part of this plan thus protecting the 'designated area' of the village and would be the major document that outlines plans for development and puts the power directly into the hands of the parishioners to:

- * create planning policies that shape the development and growth of our village to ensure it reflects our priorities, needs and character;
- * ensure any housing development genuinely meets local needs outlining what those new buildings should look like;
- * only grant planning permission for new buildings that meet the requirements of the parish plan and the Statutory Development Plan;
- * choose where we might want to build new homes, shops and offices;

- * protect local green spaces and the conservation area;
- * identify what infrastructure should be provided to support members of the parish with relevant amenities such as surgeries, chemists, shops, libraries, transport.

Another plus would be that our share of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would increase from 15% to 25%. This is a charge local authorities in England and Wales place on new developments to fund any expansion of the local infrastructure.

It is now for a group known as the **Qualifying Body** to begin the process of creating this plan and it would have the duty to:

- * keep everyone in the parish fully informed of what is being proposed;
- * ensure everyone has the opportunity to make their views known throughout the process and be actively involved in shaping the emerging neighbourhood plan;
- * be made aware of how their views have informed the draft neighbourhood plan.

There are a number of steps in the process which include;

Designation & Setup in which an application is made to the Local Plan-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

ning Authority (Shropshire Council) to designate the neighbourhood area covered by the plan. I am pleased to report that the Parish Council has completed this stage and that the area was agreed 18th Sept 2025 and published with documents and a map.

Evidence Gathering & Drafting will include community engagement research through surveys and meetings with members of the parish;

Pre-Submission Consultation which is a mandatory consultation with parishioners on the proposed draft plan;

Submission & Examination:

Submitting to the LPA (local planning authority, ie Shrops Council) and undergoing independent review;

A Parish Referendum in which members of the parish are asked to approve the plan.

Whilst there are costs involved the Parish Council has agreed to focus on the housing aspect of our plan initially, so an indicative figure of £5800 for engagement and consultation has already been agreed. The Local Plan-

ning Authority (Shropshire Council) has a duty to support the process, providing advice, sharing evidence, and paying for the independent examination and the public referendum.

I was pleased to see so many members of the parish in attendance as the Qualifying Body cannot just be comprised of parish councillors. It must have other members of the community who are interested in, or affected by, the neighbourhood planning proposals to ensure the community plays an active role in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.

QUALIFYING BODY: I was also very delighted that eight members of the parish have already volunteered to join the Qualifying Body.

Many thanks to them for doing this and I would invite others of any age group who want to shape the future of your village to contact the Clerk and join us. It's your village so come along and have your say how it should or should not be developed.

■

**WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY MEETING :
Report from Cllr John Thornhill**

Proposed Housing Developments.

This was a busy and full meeting which focussed on the two new planning applications which would see a significant increase in the number of

houses being built in the village. We were pleased to that a number of parishioners attended the meeting to express their concerns and views

(Continued on page 9)

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(Continued from page 8)

about the proposals which I can assure you the Parish Council supports whole heartedly. Our local Shropshire Councillor, David Walker, had already made submissions in his role as planning portfolio holder on Shropshire Council. He has also continued to monitor the ongoing applications in West Felton, including the outline proposal between Twyford Lane and Holyhead Road and the smaller scheme north of Old Rectory Gardens. He has called them all in and requested that the decisions on them are made by the Committee rather than a planning officer. More details can be found in his report elsewhere. The widespread discussion covered a number of areas and Council members agreed to make a detailed objection based on a number of grounds. A lot of work and effort was expended to create West Felton as a Conservation Area. The emphasis is on protecting places of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Whilst these two applications are not directly within the Conservation Area they abut or are adjacent to it and the principles of protection and preservation still apply. There are buildings of great historic interest with the siting of a rare and historic cider press within the proposed development at Twyford Lane which affects the historic nature of whole area of the site.

After discussion with those attending it was agreed to submit our objections based on the following issues.

- West Felton is a historic village and we are concerned about its sustainability given that it was noted that the infrastructure supporting the village has decreased in recent years with the loss of a number of meeting places and no increase in amenities such as a local doctors, chemist, library or public transport. The current electricity provision is under strain with no published plans to increase the capacity of the National Grid, and access to strong technology communications is very limited.
- The proposals are butting or inside the Conservation area but also set on historic Parkland which is protected.
- There is serious concern about the capacity of the current drainage systems to protect the land from flooding. It is noted that the local Water Authority, Seven Trent, has no long term planning programme for the area which already suffers from flooding in the Fox Lane area. An extra forty or more properties discharging waste will only seriously exacerbate that situation and is untenable.
- Further concerns were expressed about the increase in vehicular traffic in and around the village with particular apprehension at busy times for the two access points into the village at Queens Head and the other end of Holyhead Road. With the demise of

(Continued on page 11)

Notification of Road Closure:

GRIMPO ROAD, WEST FELTON

Start Date: 2nd March 2026 - End Date: 2nd March 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - Pole Test

Works Promoter: Openreach

Works Promoter Ref: BC008PLT3158641830032025-01

Enforcement pattern for Grimpo Road, West Felton:

9.30 - 15.30hrs

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here:

<https://one.network/?tm=GB147172712>

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Have You Used a Virtual Ward? Healthwatch Shropshire Wants to Hear From You

More people across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin are receiving hospital level care in the comfort of their own homes thanks to the NHS Virtual Ward service. Healthwatch Shropshire now wants to hear from anyone who has used the Virtual Ward or supported a family member who has received this type of care.

The independent health and care champion has launched a short online survey to understand how well the service is working and to help raise awareness of a model of care that many people still know little about.

Virtual Wards support patients who are well enough to stay at home but still need regular clinical monitoring. A dedicated team of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals check in with patients each day using a mix of home visits, telephone calls and digital monitoring equipment. This means people can rest and recover in familiar surroundings while still receiving expert care. You can watch a short video on the service by clicking here.

The Virtual Ward was introduced locally in February 2023 as part of the NHS 10 year plan. Two years on, Healthwatch Shropshire is gathering real experiences to help show how the service is supporting people in the community and where improvements may be needed.

Claire Hobbs, Director of Nursing and Clinical Delivery at Shropshire Community Health Trust, said: "Since the Virtual Ward was launched in August 2022, more than 9857 people across Shrop-

shire have received care through the service. We are keen to work closely with Healthwatch Shropshire as an independent feedback service to understand what people's experiences have been like. Listening directly to patients and families will help us show the value of the Virtual Ward and inform the public about how this model of care is supporting people in their own homes."

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer at Healthwatch Shropshire, added: "It is vital that the public's real-life experiences are taken into account when decisions are being made about how healthcare services are run. By sharing their views, people who have used the Virtual Ward can help shape how this service develops locally and ensure it truly meets the needs of our communities."

Healthwatch Shropshire is keen to hear from anyone who has received Virtual Ward care or supported a friend or relative using the service. All feedback will help build a clear picture of how the Virtual Ward is working in Shropshire and will be used to inform the public about its impact.

Take part: Anyone with experience of the Virtual Ward, either as a patient or carer, is encouraged to complete the survey online.

Our mailing address is:

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(Continued from page 9)

the proposed Shrewsbury by pass there will more pressure on the A5 and traffic through the village. There will also be increased pedestrian footfall on roads where the pavement is single width in most places. There was a very strong feeling that we should do everything to protect the sustainability of our village called West Felton which means in old English the "Settlement in open ground" and recorded in the 1086 Domesday Book.

Equipment in Playing Field.

I am pleased to report that all repairs needed on the 1 bay – 2 seat cradle and swing have now been completed.

Website.

Council Members have agreed to up-

date the parish council website and the chair and clerk have attended three meetings to discuss the structure, content and management of the new development. We would like to include photographs of the village so if anyone has any suitable pictures of the village over the years please contact the clerk.

Parish Meeting.

It is proposed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 April 2026 commencing at 7 pm. This will be followed by the monthly Council meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan.

Dates will be provided for those who have engaged to meet and discuss this topic. ■



Shropshire Councillor Report –

February 2026 Councillor David Walker

Over the past month I have been heavily involved in a wide range of work affecting West Felton, with planning matters understandably dominating much of my time. Below is a summary of what I have been doing on behalf of the parish.

Planning & Development

26/00099/OUT – Land West of Alma Close - I submitted my formal Member objection and call@in request for this application the other day. In doing so, I set out the significant con-

cerns around the setting of the Conservation Area, heritage impacts, cumulative development pressures, highways safety at Queens Head, and the unresolved drainage and wastewater risks. I have also been supporting residents who have been preparing their own objections; several people have sent me drafts to review, and I've offered guidance on how to frame material planning considerations effectively.

Beyond the main call@in, I've kept in close contact with residents on Alma Close and surrounding streets, acknowledging just how strongly the community feels about the scale and

(Continued on page 13)



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(Continued from page 43) Church of England
their parish share from £34k to 60k in 5 years. For a community of around 2500 souls this means £24/head per year. Or if one takes the Church of England's estimate of 1% of people attending the church each Sunday, £2400 per worshipper each year. Fund raising is hard work and according to the latest data from Lichfield, brings in less than £1m annually over the whole Diocese.

Funding the church is one problem. Another is the attitude of the church. Discipleship, Vocation, Evangelism (DVE) are the three aims of the Diocese of Lichfield. Many people would have difficulty explaining what these mean. What people are offered and what people want may however be very different. Over the last year I have gathered views about this from comments and letters in newspapers written by the laity. The most frequent relate to taking a Sunday service, visiting the sick, visiting in general, involvement with the community, interaction with the local school and being there when needed for such events as funerals, weddings

and baptisms. Obviously DVE can be incorporated by the clergy into these events, but DVE is the role of the clergy, not the laity. Visibility is obviously very important.

Funding the rural church is one problem, but area is also important. More northerly parishes may suffer from the majority of ordinands coming from Dioceses below a line from the Wash to Bristol. They may wish to stay locally. Although the age of clergy at ordination is not given, data from the Church of England show that, of the current 6738 clergy paid by the 40 Dioceses, only 38% are below the age of 50 years whereas 45% are within 15 years of compulsory retirement. Put another way, in the Lichfield Diocese there are likely to be only 64 priests below the age of 50yr, the age when vibrancy (see first paragraph) is at its greatest.

That such a large number of clergy must retire by 2040 must be of great concern to the new Archbishop. She has many issues in her in tray, but funding of the church and encouraging more ordinations must be among the most important. ●

Ask and You Shall Receive

Rev Smith and his curate were in a heated argument over a seemingly minor worship detail. "I suggest we go home and pray to God to grant us peaceful hearts," said Rev Smith as the curate stormed past him into the churchyard. After worship the next Sunday morning, the curate greeted Rev Smith warmly. "I took your advice," he said. "I went home and said a prayer." "Great!" said Rev Smith "So did I! I prayed that God would grant us both peaceful hearts and a fresh start." "That's not what I prayed," said the curate. "I asked God to help me put up with you."

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(Continued from page 11) Shrops County report nature of development proposed. I've tried to make sure everyone has clear information about the process, timescales and where their representations fit into the wider picture. **Other live applications in the parish:** I've continued to monitor the other ongoing applications in West Felton, including the outline proposal between Twyford Lane and Holyhead Road and the smaller scheme north of Old Rectory Gardens. I will be submitting updated comments on both of these applications. I have called them all in. They remain "pending consideration". With the volume of applications coming through the system at the same time, it's important that we look not only at each proposal on its own merits, but also at the cumulative impact on the village. **Wider policy discussions** My wider role as planning portfolio holder is strategic and doesn't relate to specific planning applications. Alongside local applications, I've been in conversations with officers and partners about transport and settlement hierarchy work as part of the new planning framework. I've been emphasising the importance of ensuring that West Felton isn't expected to absorb growth that its infrastructure simply cannot support. The issue of sustainable locations, connectivity and public transport all feeds directly into this. It is important with the new local plan that develop-

ment goes where infrastructure exists. If not it will cost the council more money to fix deficiencies. The first stage of the new local plan should appear in April – a statement of intent setting out key objectives and the timetable for the new plan. **Highways & Transport** I've continued to liaise with National Highways regarding A5 and Queens Head junction concerns, particularly around the cumulative impact of recent and proposed development. Although the junction lies outside the parish boundary, its safety and capacity have a direct effect on West Felton residents. I've also continued to follow up on parish priorities raised in earlier months, including the longstanding issue of a new streetlight on The Avenue. I've held further discussions with officers to try to keep this moving, given the understandable frustration this has caused locally. Potholes have spiked again as they do each year. However, two extra teams have been brought into Shropshire by Multevo, based at Rednal Industrial estate, bringing the number of teams to five. Prior to the winter surge we had cut the backlog by half, switching work away from Keir, as we switch to a 'mixed economy' model for Highways maintenance. We will have to wait a little longer to find out what impact this has had on winter maintenance. Stopping run-off

(Continued on page 15)



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The Church of England

Michael Davie,

Whether a scientist or a journalist, it is always pleasing to find someone more exalted than oneself expounding similar views. A lengthy article in The Times recently called upon the new Archbishop to concentrate less on managerial issues and to spend more time supporting the rich liturgy and the moral traditions of the Church of England and to support the parish clergy.

Supporting the clergy is becoming increasingly important as their numbers dwindle and the areas over which they hold sway increase. The Church of England says that "it has a Christian presence in every community" and the Diocese of Lichfield proclaims that it is vibrant (definition: energetic, exciting, and full of enthusiasm). Many rural communities would beg to disagree: many parishes have no clergy to look after them. Over the last hundred years the number of clergy in the Oswestry deanery has declined significantly. In 1914 at the time of the Welsh Churches Act sixteen parishes were transferred from the Diocese of St Asaph to the Diocese of Lichfield. This transfer included Welsh Frankton (now in Ellesmere deanery). West Felton has always been in the Lichfield Diocese but was included in the Oswestry Deanery, possibly for administrative conven-

ience. Some parishes such as Maesbrook and Maesbury did not exist in 1914.

Paying for all the clergy in these parishes came either through patronage, tithe or glebe. For example Knockin was at one time the centre of the Earl of Bradford's Shropshire estates and records show that in the 19th century a relative of Lord Bradford, the Rev. E.V.O. Bridgeman, was Rector of Knockin for 30 years from 1867 to 1897. No doubt his incumbency was supported by the Bradford estates. Rectors stayed a long time in those days. In the 70 years since 1950, Knockin has had 10 Rectors.

Finding, and indeed keeping, clergy is getting increasingly difficult. Keeping them satisfied and in tune with rural needs as well as paying them gets more difficult as time goes by. As noted in these columns previously, the rural church has never been reliant on the congregation for paying the clergy. In 1924 West Felton paid £32 towards the Rector's pay (about £2500 in today's money). The rest came from income from Glebe or from tithe. The Rector of West Felton had an income of about £600-900/yr at that time. Finding the resources to pay for a priest at £60,000/yr today is difficult for a rural community. Kinnerley in their recent advert for a priest were being asked to increase

(Continued on page 45)

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(Continued from page 13)

sitting on roads will be an important weapon in stopping potholes forming.

Flooding, Drainage and Utilities

I am working with officers to make sure run-off is properly managed at source through good design. We can't sustain massive building projects simply creating more run-off. A significant part of my planning objection work this month has been focused on drainage and wastewater capacity. Residents have highlighted long-standing issues in parts of the village, and I share those concerns—especially when major development is proposed without firm mitigation in place. I've made drainage and surface-water risk a central theme of my representations.

Neighbourhood Planning & Community Engagement

I attended the West Felton Neighbourhood Plan public meeting, where I contributed as a local member on how neighbourhood planning interacts with the emerging Local Plan. There is strong local interest in shaping the future of the village, and it's important that this work continues in parallel with responding to planning applications. These applications highlight the risk of not having a Neighbourhood plan. I am grateful to everyone who attended/volunteered at the meeting.

Casework and Correspondence

A large portion of my time this month has been spent responding to resi-

dents about planning, highways and enforcement queries. The volume of correspondence around Alma Close has been particularly high, and I've aimed to respond swiftly and constructively to support residents in navigating the planning system.

Meetings and Diary Highlights

Alongside the parish-specific work, I've been involved in broader planning portfolio discussions which influence how decisions affecting West Felton are taken—covering subjects such as highways responses to planning consultations, the settlement hierarchy work, and the wider planning policy refresh.

Budget Outlook

The outlook remains very grim. The position deteriorated some more this quarter but there are signs that this has been arrested. Officers are confident that the situation is contained, as long as the government agrees to the councils application for exception financial support. Yesterday we learnt that the Government hadn't heeded our representations on the government's financial settlement. This year's settlement (the amount the government gives to the council to run services) has been reduced by a further £2m despite protests that more funding was going to Urban councils. They did however, give the council permission to charge up to a 9% increase in council tax without

(Continued on page 17)

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Sowing gets off the mark

Planting garlic in compost filled rings had worked well for reducing fungal problems. However, when it actually came to garlic planting time at the beginning of February, I was recovering from an operation and not very mobile. I had read somewhere that they could be started in pots so I decided to give it a go. I actually used tray insert modules, burying the cloves and placing the trays outside. Too early to measure how successful it is but the first stage obviously needs little effort.

Sowing and planting really kicks off at the beginning of March. For me, this includes the first radish and carrots in a cold glasshouse, plus lettuce in tray inserts kept above freezing. The varieties this year will be my usual Amsterdam Forcing carrot and Gourmet loose-leaf and Little Gem lettuce but the radish will be an experiment as I am going to try Black Spanish. I chop and change with radish as I struggle to get good results. If anyone has a surefire formula, please let me know. Indoors at around 20oC I will sow ageratum and lobelia in 40 cell tray inserts.

As the month progresses, there will be antirrhinum, cineraria, then ipomoea all in tray inserts in the warm. Towards the end of the month, I sow ricinis in modules which are kept in a very warm place.

Outside, I plant shallots early in the

month followed by onion sets. My usual onion variety is Centurian but this year they were replaced by Crusado and I will also try Snowball simply because they were sent by mistake. In the middle of the month the first double rows (25 cm apart) of broad bean De Monica are sown, followed later by a few spring onion seed. At the same time, I sow leaks in 40 cell tray inserts and three or four Casablanca potatoes in a 15 litre container, both put in a cold glasshouse. Casablanca will also be planted outdoors in defiance of a possible late frost.

Apart from sowing and planting, there are a lot of March jobs. First off for me will be to start spraying total weedkiller as we have no hope of relying on hand weeding and hoeing. There is usually some vegetable garden still needing clearing and certainly debris from flower beds. Paths and steps will be crying out to be swept. That will expose moss in the shady areas of our garden so moss killer is called for. Also, it is good time to clean and perhaps move on plants in pots. Those kept under cover for winter protection can tentatively be moved out, including sweet peas sown earlier. We have some holly that needs its spring clipping and there could be other shrubs needing to be tidied. If you have floribunda roses, now is the time to complete the annual pruning.

To complete the month, I will be making a start on grass cutting.●

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



PC Mark Wright M: 07977 957689 Direct Dial: 101.

PCSO Kurt Mabe 07870 219669

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

Team email: oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk

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(Continued from page 15)

needing a referendum. This does rather stick in the craw compounding the unfairness of council tax and the poor government funding.

Looking Ahead

In the coming months I expect to continue focusing on:

- Ongoing scrutiny of other West Felton planning applications.

- Maintaining pressure to resolve longstanding parish items such as the streetlight on The Avenue.
- Continuing dialogue with National Highways and Shropshire Council officers where strategic issues meet local realities.
- Supporting the parish's ongoing Neighbourhood Plan development.

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Every year, amazing gardens throughout Shropshire open for the National Garden Scheme which raises money for cancer and caring charities including Macmillan, Carer's Trust, Hospice UK, Parkinson's, Horatio's, The Queens Nursing Institute and Marie Curie.

The National Garden Scheme has been operating for nearly 100 years and Shropshire's involvement started right at the beginning.

Some gardens open for specific days, some only by appointment and some open as a group.

The Shropshire branch of the scheme raised over £90,000 for our beneficiaries in the 2025 season. Nationally, in 2025 the scheme was able to make donations to the beneficiaries which exceeded £3.8 million pounds.

The "Yellow Book" includes many of Shropshire's best gardens, some magnificent country estates and some hidden jewels owned by ordinary garden-lovers, offering a cost-effective day out, with beautiful gardens and home-made refreshments..

A leaflet showing all the gardens open for charity in Shropshire is widely-available at libraries, tourist centres, garden centres and many other sources.

Shropshire NGS volunteers are always on the lookout for NEW gardens, NEW volunteers and anyone who would like to offer help with publicity, refreshments, delivering booklets and welcoming our lovely visitors.

We are especially keen to find towns or villages who might consider coming to-

gether to make a garden trail.

Looking forward to the 2026/2027 seasons, we are keen to look to the future and recruit:

- * More gardens.
- * Gardens especially owned/run by young people or people with diverse needs.
- * Community gardens.
- * Gardens in **villages or towns** that would be suitable for designing a garden trail around.

The National Garden Scheme is very aware of the benefits to health and wellbeing that making and visiting a garden can have.

We are keen to engage with all communities. We are always on the look out for volunteers to help with a multitude of tasks which range from publicity, distributing stationery, collecting entrance money and even parking.

The team in Shropshire (as in all counties) is made up entirely of volunteers who give their time for free to raise funds for our beneficiaries.

For more information about the work of The National Garden Scheme please visit our website. <https://ngs.org.uk/>

For additional information about how the **Shropshire Team** works and to make enquiries about opening a single garden, a village trail or anything else please contact me or Andy Chatting, the County Organiser for Shropshire - 07546560615.

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WEST FELTON CARNIVAL 2026 Sunday 12th July

From Eileen and the
Carnival Committee

THANK YOU - First let me say how wonderful the Christmas Tree looked this year so a big thank you to the committee and Clive Whittingham for all their hard work.

January has been a very damp and miserable month, but hopefully spring is around the corner and our thoughts go on to summer and "Carnival" time.

THE BIG DAY - This year it will be on Sunday July 12th, so now is the time to start thinking about your float, remember last year was such a good parade - we would like it even better this year.

SPONSORSHIP - Expenses are going up so much, so if anyone would like to sponsor us that would be great.

We had our first meeting of the year and have already booked **The Animal Family** to come along which we know will be very popular.

NEW PERFORMERS - Anybody who has any connections with anyone who might like to perform, let a committee member know.

STALLHOLDERS - book early to sell your goods, you have a captive audience that day.

More news next month, for enquiries ring me: Eileen 610629.



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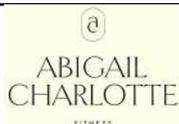
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PTFA (Parent, Teacher, and Friends Association) West Felton School

Hello everyone,

We wanted to share a little update on what the Friends have been up to recently, along with some exciting plans coming up.

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who so generously donated Christmas decorations. The children were absolutely delighted to see them, and we had great fun putting everything up together. It was a lovely reminder of how supportive and generous our school community is - thank you so much.

To help raise funds for our school, we are currently collecting blue tokens from Tesco Stronger start scheme where local good causes are chosen to be on the customer vote in participating stores - customers receive a blue token at the checkout and drop it into the box for their cause.

If you shop at Tesco in Ellesmere or the Tesco in Oswestry (formerly One Stop), please do pop your token in for us - the friends of West Felton CE school. We would also be incredibly grateful if you could spread the word to friends and family who shop there too, "Every little (token) helps".

We would like to extend a very big thank you to Karl Leaver's Decorating Business, who in January, very kindly volunteered to repaint the whole of The Glade - what a FANTASTIC job he did! A big thank you also goes to the volunteers who gave some of their time to help Karl with this project - it has made such a positive difference to the space. We are so grateful for everyone's generosity and support.

At the end of the half term the PTA facilitated a film night for the children - which was greatly enjoyed by all. It gave us great pleasure to be able to give something back to the children for all their hard work.

If you have been following the Friends of West Felton CE Primary School Facebook page, you may already be aware that we are currently seeking prize donations for our upcoming Easter raffle. Any donations would be hugely appreciated, vouchers, hampers, treats, days out, anything big or small will help. If you are able to contribute, please get in touch via the Friends of West Felton Facebook page or contact the school directly. The deadline for donations is March 16th 2026.

Another lovely event on the calendar is our Easter Trail around West Felton

(Continued on page 23)

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West Felton Women's Institute December's activities



Snow stopped play on the second Thursday of January, so no WI meeting. Members keep in touch online and were entertained by a quiz.

All looking forward to the next meeting which will be Thursday February 12th at 7pm when Dance HQ's Ross Millar will tell of the origins of Ballroom and Latin Dancing from - and teaching a few moves!♦



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From Mark Wright, West Mercia Police Constable, Oswestry Rural South Road Safety and Traffic Offences is a large part of Policing with West Mercia Police and more locally the Rural South Safer Neighbourhoods Team continuing to address and take action in this area, with Roads Policing being a 24 hour 7 days a week commitment across the Policing units. West Mercia Police and local teams carry out a number of Traffic related operations with various concerns being focused on, but we can't be everywhere at once and you might be able to help.

In a day of technological advancements, which sees most vehicles on our roads fitted with Dashcams and the wide range ownership of smart phones, one of these operations leans into these advancements and is dedicated to obtaining evidence from such devices.

This is **Operation Snap** which provides the public of West Mercia a platform for reporting certain types of traffic offences to West Mercia Police.



Members of the public can report and submit digital footage showing potential traffic offences via a secure online form. These offences can range from driving dangerously or carelessly, to overtaking on solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving, ignoring traffic lights, or dangerous driving around other road users, such as horse riders and cyclists.

Should you have an incident which you wish to report and / or for further information about this service please visit :

Operation Snap | West Mercia Police.

Let's work together and keep our roads safe. Thank you.

(Continued from page 21) PTFA West Felton School

village (to take place during the Easter holidays) - a fun scavenger hunt where children can search for letters and receive a small prize at the end. Ticket details, including dates and routes, will be shared very soon.

Finally, we just want to say another heartfelt thank you to everyone for your continued support. We know it can sometimes feel like there is always something being asked for, and we truly appreciate every donation, bit of time, and kind gesture. It's genuinely wonderful to see how much the children and school benefit from it all and we are having great fun along the way too. Thank you for being such a fantastic community.

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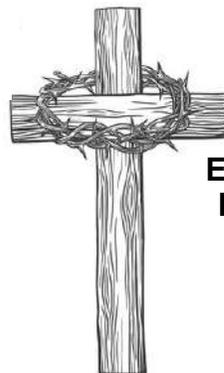
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Cantiones will join Ellesmere College Choral Society and Ellesmere College Chapel Choir to present Bob Chilcott's dramatic St John Passion. It should be emotional, with the benefit of having a small orchestra featuring a large brass section and excellent soloists. In addition each choir will present individual items to showcase their skills. All in, all this should be a concert not to be missed.



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with

Ellesmere College Choral Society
Ellesmere College Chapel Choir

ST JOHN PASSION

Bob Chilcott

and individual choir items

With Soloists and Orchestra
Conducted by Anthony Coupe

7:00pm 14th March 2026

St Oswald's Chapel, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere SY12 9AB

Tickets: £15 Adult, U18s free

from ticketsource.co.uk/cantioneschoir, also Siop Cwlwm,
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Village Hall
**Wednesday
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Entrance: £2 per person -
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Doors open from 7pm
with eyes down promptly at
7:30pm.

*Easter Eggs/ chocolate
for prizes gratefully re-
ceived by any WFFH
committee member.*

Knockin & Kinnerley Cricket Club

If you've never been to Knockin & Kinnerley Cricket Club before, then why not come and check us out. We're always happy to welcome members of the local community, and we'd love to see you coming along to support us at one of our games and take advantage of our bar and clubhouse.



New players are also very welcome – we cater for near enough everyone from experienced players to complete novices. We have a growing ladies team and a strong juniors section as well – so if you or a member of your family has ever thought about giving the game a go then, now is the time to act.

Our main objective is for cricket to be inclusive and fun for all, ensuring that new and existing members feel welcomed into the KKCC family.

The season starts at the end of April, and we have pre-season net practice starting in early March, so if you do fancy giving cricket a go then please get in touch with either our Club Captain Gary Darlington (07805 575148), or our ladies' captain Soph Bayliss (07508 838836).



See page 2 for a few key dates to pencil in for 2026:

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Charlotte Roberts

She/Her

Marketing & Communications
Officer

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Volunteers needed at Oswestry Community Action (OCA)

Oswestry Community Action (OCA) is on the lookout for more volunteers. Volunteer support is pivotal to the retention and growth of the fundamental services they have to offer to the people in the local and wider Shropshire area.

The services OCA offer have been developed in response to the needs of the local community and ultimately aim to keep them engaged and support inclusivity and wellbeing. The majority of their services are aimed at those who are disadvantaged which includes disability, health (including mental health), unemployment, rural poverty and isolation.

Their Community Transport Service is essential for enabling people in the community to get out and about with ease and makes a huge difference in their lives. The Dial-a-Ride and Community Car services are a large proportion of this service and offer door-to-door transport for people without access to public transport or a car. Journeys can include anything from grocery shopping, a trip to the hairdressers or even regular journeys such as attendance at the OCA twice-weekly Wellbeing & Befriending groups, which help to maintain connection and engagement within the community.

Chief Officer at Oswestry Community Action, Kim Wootton says; "We currently have over 900 members signed up to our Community Transport Service, but we cannot service all of these people without more volunteer Community Transport Drivers. If more keen driver volunteers come forward and join OCA we will be able to continue our mission to combat isolation and rural poverty and improve wellbeing amongst the community."

Without their fantastic, friendly team of volunteers, Oswestry Community Action wouldn't be able to make the difference they do in the community. To enable OCA to support more local people, if you have some spare time and want to immerse yourself in a fabulous community project, please get in touch, email info@qube-oca.org.uk or call 01691 656882. ●

We're on the hunt for Volunteer Community Transport Drivers!

Our members need you!

We now have over 900 members using our Community Transport service, so we're looking for more volunteer drivers to enable us to deliver our invaluable transport service to even more of them!

If you'd love to give something back to your local community hub, please get in touch.



Hear it from a volunteer...



Harry Pickavance
Volunteer Dial-a-Ride Driver

As a Dial-a-Ride volunteer I give up my time to help others make journeys which they may not be able to undertake without the help of our Community Transport service. These trips may be to support groups, shopping, medical appointments, and/or any other activities which may be essential or provide enrichment to their lives.

Get in touch with our Volunteer Coordinator, Jo to find out more! Call **01691 656882** or email on j.longetti@qube-oca.org.uk

oca Oswestry Community Action, Oswald Road, Oswestry SY11 1RB | 01691 656882
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**West Felton
Village Hall**

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**A LIFE WELL LIVED
 GRAHAM CASSON**

07 March 1948 – 27 December 2025

Most of you know Graham from the pub quizzes. Some of you may know him from when he came into the pub for a pint and to read quietly in the corner on a Friday. Others will know him from the corner shop, the Flexors group, Tai Chi class, or the community coffee morning. Most of you will not know he was a champion hurdler, musician, played the church organ, peddle steel guitar, Zither, bass guitar and the bag pipes. Was a qualified football referee, barista, chocolatier. Spoke fluent Welsh, Italian and Japanese. Was a Governor for Walford college and Middleton Road school and a Samaritan ... a life well lived.

So it is with a very sad heart that we have to announce that Graham passed away very suddenly on the 27th of December.

It was due to the quick thinking, swift action, and generosity of many people in the village that his family were given the precious time to say their farewells. Graham's family would like to thank everybody who was involved in looking after him that night, giving him the best chance to survive, although sadly it was not to be.

Donations now stand at £700, which will be split between the Samaritans, where Graham volunteered for a number of years, and the maintenance and upkeep of the West Felton defibrillator.

We would also like to thank all the wonderful friends and neighbours in the village for their help, support, cards, flowers, and donations.

**With much appreciation and gratitude,
 June, Alex, Greg, Tom, Livi, Amanda,
 Emma, Cara, Dani, Nick and Dan.**



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