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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	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
Your Shrops Councillor: Steve Charmley email: steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk	01691 587958
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: vacant	
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: President: Rhian	07375 997 782

Year 32

MAY 2025

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk



OSWESTRY CELEBRATIONS

10th May, 2025

12 to 4pm

Cae Glas Park

Oswestry will commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a short service on May 8th at the Memorial Gates, followed by a community event on May 10th in Cae Glas Park, featuring activities for all ages.

https://www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk/council_events/ve-day-celebration/

Want to 'Flog it'?

West Felton Village Hall, Saturday 31st May 10:30am to 2pm

Hallmarks FREE VALUATION Paul (07305) 095849

Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 School Hall
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT... see page 23
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	8pm Meeting, THE PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

1 May	COUNCIL ELECTIONS, Village Hall	
8 May	10-12noon COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall	13
20 May	7:30pm ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, School Hall	11
31 May	10:30-2pm HALLMARKS back in West Felton. Buying gold and silver.	
6 July	WEST FELTON CARNIVAL	15
11 Oct	WEST FELTON CRAFT FAIR, Village Hall	

Tuesday Tots

Every term time Tuesday 9.15 - 10.30am
At West Felton Primary and Nursery

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- * Hot drinks available for parents (please bring a lidded travel mug).
- * Snacks and drinks provided for children.(£1 voluntary donation).
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Commercial rates by arrangement



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

Opening time :
Wednesdays only : 9am until 10:30am.

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 MAY 2025

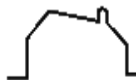
Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

Advertising Rates
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Quarter page	£60
Half page	£90
Full page	£150



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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 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 Committee).	
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 MEETING

13 May 2025

WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

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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From: Shropshire Council Street Works Team, Date: Tue, 8 Apr 2025
Surface Dressing Road Closure Amendment - C1131 - Queens Head to West Felton, ,

**Please note: THE LOCKCHIP 19/05/2025-21/05/2025 ELEMENT
OF THIS WORK HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

Road Closure: Unnamed Road, Queens Head to West Felton

Start Date: 29th April 2025 End Date: 23rd May 2025

Purpose: Site N09 Surface Dressing including sweeping, and lining works to include

Stud removal: 29/04/2025. Dressing: 13/05/2025-15/05/2025

Lockchip: 19/05/2025-21/05/2025. Lining: 22/05/2025-23/05/2025.

Please note that these works are weather dependent and subject to change.

Works Promoter: Kier for Shropshire Council. Promoter Ref: UJ211SD25-N09-1

Enforcement pattern for Unnamed Road, Queens Head to West Felton:

From Monday to Friday 09:30 - 16:00.

You can view the closure and diversion route at

<https://one.network/?tm=142371419>.

Should you have any queries regarding this closure, please call Customer Services
on 0345 6789006, or contact the Street Works Team on
streetworks@shropshire.gov.uk

Report from West Felton Parish Chairman, Cllr John Thornhill

Fly tipping and graffiti at Corbett's Bridge. In response to a report from a parishioner regarding this issue the Council reported the graffiti to the Canal & Rivers Trust and received the following email.

"Thank you for your contact, I have found a Corbetts Bridge on the Montgomery Canal, and this sits in the area close to West Felton so will assume this is the correct location; I will make the local operations team aware of the graffiti, as a rule we tend to try and remove graffiti that has an offensive content, just so you are aware. Thank you for reporting it onto us."

Conservation Area signs. We are

still negotiating about the placement of signs despite previous correspondence. We will continue to press for a site visit to agree effective placements and discuss other road safety matters.

School Parking on Oak Farm Lane. We have received further correspondence on this issue. The Parish Council has liaised with the police and school about this and you will have seen the police report in the previous village magazine, setting out their view on this issue and what they are doing on an ongoing basis. The school also is doing all it can to alleviate parking issues in-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7) Parish Council report cluding purchasing a police sign to replace the one moved to another location by the police. A suggestion was made to place zig zag signs at relevant places in the area. Council considered this issue but has no powers to take any action. It is only the police and highways management that can take action on parking. Shropshire Council is responsible for the placing of zig zag lines and not the Parish Council.

Flooding in West Felton near Tedsmore Road. I reported previously that the Council had written to John Bellis of Shropshire Council to express unease regarding continued flooding. He responded by saying that CCTV survey would be undertaken. We have now received his update as follows;
Apologies for the lack of update. The survey was undertaken and the team were unable to find any defects in the pipework under the Holyhead Road. Its possible that this was a build-up of material that caused a temporary blockage. Now that the system is running I'm not proposing any additional work here at present. Obviously we've had some prolonged dry weather recently so its not been tested in a storm. If this issue re-occurs again in the future I'm happy to return and take another look.

Council discussed this in detail and

agreed to respond that the diameter of the pipe into which water flows is too narrow to sustain a significant downfall of rain without appropriate measures in place to reduce the pressure on the small pipe.

Housing Development West Felton.

The Clerk received the following short email from Andrew Jones of Chartland Homes Developers.
We are potentially looking to submit a planning application for a residential development in West Felton and would welcome the opportunity to introduce the scheme to the members and to get their input.

I was thinking of emailing over our initial thoughts and approach to the design which could be circulated to the members with a view to presenting and discussing in more detail at your May meeting. Would this be acceptable or would you suggest a different approach?

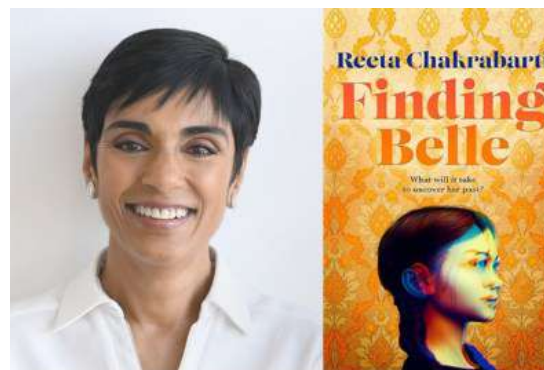
This was discussed and Council agreed to seek further information for our consideration at a future meeting. However with the demise of the Shropshire Local Plan we expect to receive more such letters and emails. Any application would have to go to Shropshire Council for planning permission and the opinion of West Felton Council would be sought.

AVC. We have been informed that the appeal by Trust Inns Limited

(Continued on page 9)

Booka Bookshop Presents...

An evening with REETA CHAKRABARTI



**14th May 2025, 7.00pm
(doors 6.15pm)
at The Holroyd Community
Theatre, Oswestry
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An afternoon with RUTH JONES

Thurs 22nd May - 1.00pm at The Holroyd Theatre, Oswestry

BAFTA winning co-creator of Gavin & Stacey, Ruth Jones returns to Oswestry! We're thrilled to announce an event with much loved actress, screenwriter and bestselling author, Ruth Jones, for her new novel, **'By Your Side'**.



Ruth Jones MBE is best known for her outstanding and award-winning television writing – BBC 1's Gavin and Stacey, in which she played the incorrigible Nessa Jenkins, and Sky 1's Stella. She has numerous other television credits to her name. Now, the author of 'Never Greener', 'Us Three', and 'Love Untold', publishes her new novel, **'By Your Side'** – a joyful and life-affirming story with characters you'll come to know and love.

We can't wait to welcome Ruth back to Oswestry for this afternoon event. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to see her!



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

(Continued from page 8)

against the order to make the Punch Bowl Inn an **Asset of Community Value (AVC)** has been refused. The various arguments presented were each examined in detail with reasons provided for not accepting them. The Reviewing Officer concluded that:

The community value criteria were appropriately considered in reaching the decision to list the property as an Asset of Community Value.

Continued community use is a realistic continued use of The Punch Bowl Inn and its associated land, and this test is satisfied. Whilst there may be potential for a portion of the site to be developed in future, there has yet to be a viable proposal to satisfy planning requirements.

The current planning status of The Punch Bowl Inn and its associated land does not indicate its inevitable loss as a community facility

It is reasonable to expect that the Nominator will require time to develop plans for the site and raise funds for these, and this is not a reason to reject the listing as an Asset of Community Value

The current community use is a realistic continued use of the whole of the land, and therefore removal of an element of the

site from the listing is not supported.

Accordingly, the Reviewing Officer has concluded that the requirements of Section 88 (1) (a) and Section 88 (1) (b) were satisfied and that the nominated land meets the criteria for inclusion on the Council's list of assets of community value.

The council has received a letter from Mark Brown - Managing Director of Trust Inns stating:

I am the Managing Director of Trust Inns, the owner of the Punchbowl. Please excuse the directness but I have been given this email address by Sally, the tenant of the pub, to make contact with you in relation to the potential sale of the land at the pub to the Parish Council. If there is indeed interest, then I look forward to hearing from you with any proposal.

The Council has replied asking Trust Inns to provide further details so that it can consider their proposals at a future meeting.

Fox Lane Field. It has been reported that one of the fields near Fox Lane has been cultivated thus blocking the right of way across it. We have raised this matter with the owner of the land.

Annual Parish Meeting. It is proposed to hold this meeting on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7 30pm in the School.●

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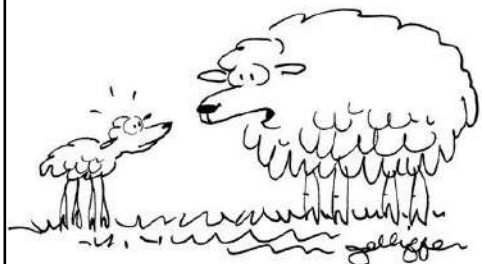
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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 20th May 2025

7:30pm in the School Hall

Tea/Coffee will be served.

The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting.

The Local Government Act states that every parish must hold a Parish Meeting every year.

The Chairman of the Parish Council (or vice-chair if the Chairman is unable to attend) must preside if present.

**The meeting is open to all resident electors,
 who can speak and vote during the meeting.**

The Agenda is a standard agenda, to give reports on the business of the last 12 months. The Parish Council reports to its electorate on its activities over the last year and there are usually reports from County Councillors and perhaps from any voluntary or local community group.

It is also an opportunity for parishioners to question people and organisations on any issues relating to the village.

As the Annual Parish Meeting is not a parish council meeting it is not conducted in the same way or governed by the same rules as a parish council meeting. Members of the public are permitted to make statements on relevant matters during the meeting. Any resolutions passed do not bind the Parish Council.

- "If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to." — *Dorothy Parker (March 2005)*
- "I don't know why people are so keen to put the details of their private life in public; they forget that invisibility is a superpower." — *Banksy (September 2015)*

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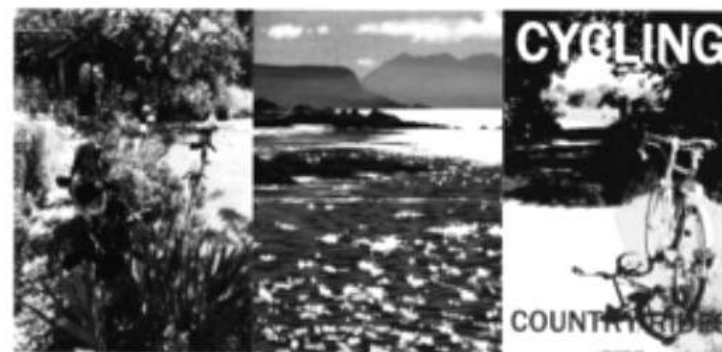
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WFWI: March's meeting and activities

This month once again provided opportunities for members to meet and enjoy activities in each other's company.

Theatre visits to the Attfield in Oswestry continue to prove popular with many of us attending a performance of 'Veronica's Room', a dark and sinister thriller which the cast delivered convincingly.

Representatives attended the 'auditions day' for potential speakers, held in Shrewsbury's Claremont Street 'Central' building; it yielded lots of possibilities for speakers on a variety of subjects for our future programme of events.


We welcomed visiting members from St Martin's WI, Oswestry, Gobowen and Maesbury to our monthly meeting when our speaker for the evening was Mr Graham Short. He has decades of experience in the art of micro-engraving where he transforms tiny surfaces into intricate masterpieces. He has collaborated with, amongst others, Stephen Fry and Simon Armitage (the Poet Laureate), working at his craft in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. It was fascinating to hear of his dedication and the methods he uses to achieve his impressive results. We understand he's also won swimming medals and starred in films!

Our Shropshire Federation had organised a visit to the ballet in Birmingham. The performance of 'Cinderella' was described as 'magical' by one of our members, with the whole day being very well organised. To note, the Federation is made up of over one hundred WIs in our county with a total of some 3000 members. You're never far away from one!

Following in the footsteps of the Duke of Edinburgh and St Martin's pupils, we too sampled the tasty lunch and refreshments available at OsNosh (SY11 1LW) having previously had a visit from them when they described their community kitchen and café; they make use of good surplus food donated by local stores/suppliers and produce nutritious meals.

As a contribution to this year's 'Great British Spring Clean' (March 21st – April 6th) we shall be making use of our litter picking equipment and helping 'Keep Britain Tidy'. The British Women's Institute was instrumental in setting up this organisation, initiating a conference held in 1955 after passing a resolution at its AGM to start a national anti-litter campaign.

In April we look forward to a visit from Matthew Tong of Tong's Auction House when he will be telling us about the world of antiques and collectibles (which are very collectable!) Monthly meetings for members take place on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Village Hall. Come and join us! Visitors welcome (£5). Please contact us: 07375997782.▪





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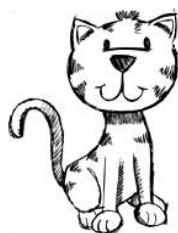
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FLOATS - Reminder to all village groups, have you decided on yours?

MUSIC -

- **Porthywaen Band**, always popular - *booked* ✓
- **Os Rocks** – a PopRock choir from Oswestry, a community choir with an emphasis on fun - *booked* ✓
- **Stephen Lockhart**, a singer songwriter from Wrexham sings songs he has written and songs he wishes he had - *booked* ✓

ENTERTAINMENT

- **DONKEY RIDES**, the children love the donkey rides - *booked* ✓
- **Jack Dent Magician, Member of the Magic Circle**, Fabulous entertainer, absolutely not to be missed - *booked* ✓
- **Gymnasts, Oswestry Raptors Cheerleaders** - *booked* ✓

CATERING - WI TEAS - of course, lots of cake - *booked*. ✓

BURGERS, CHIPS, and other crowd pleasers, *booked* ✓

BAR - Beer and soft drinks - of course, *booked*. ✓

GRAND DRAW tickets ordered - who will be the lucky winner? ✓

JUDGES BEING INVITED - MORE NEWS NEXT MONTH

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Transitional May

When you are labouring in your garden in May remember the argument that nothing worth having ever comes easily, but the end result will give great pleasure. This thought occurred to me because, as the year progresses, the endless garden chores can seem a bit overwhelming. However, at the end of it you can be sure we will come back for more. For me, the thing that I find most onerous is trying to keep on top of the weeds, always vowing to do better but always losing. I also hope each year that there will not be a prolonged drought when the watering starts to be a burden.

There is still some seed sowing in May. I will put cauliflowers both summer and winter in 40 cell tray inserts in a cold frame, followed two weeks later by cabbage and kale. Sweetcorn goes into small modules (18 to a standard seed tray) in the glasshouse, while runner beans will go in large modules (12 to a seed tray), again in the cold frame. I find it better for many things to sow in tray inserts or modules rather than direct. The success rate is increased, there is much less wastage and thinning is avoided. This more than compensates for the time spent planting out. The last of the main crop potatoes need planting and there will be sowings of radish, lettuce and broad beans for succession. I also choose to sow beetroot towards the end of the month.

May is the month when potting on and planting out gets underway. Tomatoes, cucumbers, courgette and squash all need potting on but kept under glass and will grow quickly. In fact, by the end of the month courgettes and squash will be ready to plant out providing you have it on good authority that there will be no frost. On that basis, dahlia tubers and bedding in containers can also be planted. It is a good time to put compost on all soft fruit and I will take the precaution mid-month of buying vine weevil nematodes. Then, just keep weeding, watering and spreading Growmore.

Chrisopher Lloyd claimed that May is not a peak month in most gardens. Like all things, it depends. Clearly, it is too early for bedding to be making a show and also for the traditional borders to be impressive. However, if you major in fairly early flowering shrubs then it will be prime time. But then, I don't think he was very keen on rhododendrons. It must also be said that May is a dangerous month in that the glasshouse will be bursting at the seams with young plants wanting to go out but the gardener lives in fear that a late frost would ruin things. Keep fleece on hand to cover the early potatoes and hold off on bedding (other than in containers) till a bit later.

Should you have any spare time, use it to visit a garden. ●

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

OSWESTRY RURAL SOUTH Safer Neighbourhood Team,
West Mercia Police, Oswestry Police Station, Park St, Oswestry, SY11 2HE.

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 **Twitter: @OsCops**

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

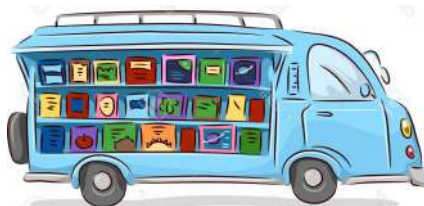
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ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICE OR COUNCIL?



Message from Mark Wright (West Mercia Police, Police Constable, Oswestry Rural South)

I have been out and about in the Llynclys/Porth-y-waen area following reports of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB). I have spoken to local residents and many youths who were out socialising and enjoying a nice evening playing in the park and truck spotting on the A495 (from a safe distance). I'm thankful to say all the youths were extremely pleasant, we had a great chat about school, hobbies, wagons and ASB.

RURALMATTERS

We are working hard to tackle Anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Oswestry Rural South and the information provided to us by residents can be essential in taking action to make a difference where you live. Some ASB incidents might be an issue for your local council so it may be useful to know to who contact:

Here are some examples of ASB that we (the Police) want to know about:

- Fireworks misuse (full laws and guidance on our website)
- Abandonment of cars
- Aggressive animals or use of animals in illegal activities
- Nuisance noise from people being inconsiderate in a public space
- Indecent, threatening or offensive phone calls
- Street drinking causing disruptive behaviour
- Vehicle nuisance such as street racing and riding unlicensed powered vehicles

Here are some examples of ASB that are NOT a police matter and your local council could be informed on:

- Someone blocking your driveway
- Stray dog that isn't sick or injured
- Nuisance noise from pubs and clubs, and construction sites
- General littering, fly-tipping, hazardous items
- Neighbour disputes such as loud music or dogs barking, parking, property boundaries, overgrowing trees and hedges
- Trespassing without causing damage or harm

(Continued on page 19)



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Artistic Director: Sophia Rahman

Welcome to the Whittington Music Festival 2025! This year's festival is characteristically imaginative, a judicious mixture of beloved classics interspersed with the new, performed by familiar senior musicians in partnership with young stars of the future. We hope that there is something for everyone here; we invite you to come and enjoy the delights on offer, and to participate in the festival spirit!

Steven Isserlis CBE

Save the Dates! The Whittington Festival will take place from Thursday, May 15th to Sunday, May 18th 2025.

Details of the 2025 programme are available on the web site. Festival gift vouchers are available.

Tickets for early bird bookings (available for supporters) are now on sale. Word of mouth is our best form of publicity so please tell your friends and family how good it is. <https://www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk/>

WHITTINGTON Car Parking

- The Castle have outsourced the carpark to a company operating number plate recognition.
- Parking now costs £2 for 24 hours and concessions for Festival Pass holders are no longer available.
- So be sure that you pay at the machine (by card) or in the Castle shop/tearoom.
- **Several people were fined £100 at our November fundraising concert as they had not seen the notices in the dark.**

There is free parking near the Three Trees shop, and if you have a meal or a drink at either of the village pubs, the Boote and the White Lion, you will be able to leave your car there during the concert.

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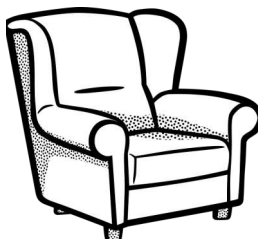


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(Continued from page 17) AntiSocial Behaviour

Full guidance on ASB and the different types can be found at
www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/

Or you can find your local council at www.gov.uk.

Should you have any concerns about potential ASB, or are experiencing ASB where you live, please contact your local council or if necessary report it to us:
<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

In an emergency, if you or your property are at risk,
or a crime is in progress call 999.

If you aren't comfortable contacting us directly, you can pass on information anonymously to the independent charity,

Crimestoppers, by calling **0800 555 111** or by visiting their web-site: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Thank you for your help. It is only by the police and the public working together that we can prevent and detect crime.



West Felton Walking Group

Walk leaders:-

We meet at 10.00 am Mondays at the
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Mike Bossen 01691 610623

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**WEEKLY FRAUD UPDATE FROM WEST MERCIA POLICE ECONOMIC CRIME UNIT -
01/04/2025**

WHAT ARE YOUR CHILDREN DOING ONLINE?

During School holidays children will have more spare time on their hands.

What's almost certain is that during the school holidays, they'll be going online much more than in term time ... for entertainment, keeping in contact and chatting with their mates, gaming, and the multitude of other things kids use the Internet for.

With all the additional time spent doing more online, how can you be sure that the young people in your family are safe from the issues they can encounter every day?

The Internet lets children connect with friends and learn new things. But there are also dangers to going online, and children can be particularly vulnerable.

Talking to your children is one of the best ways to keep them safe online. By understanding the risks, and keeping yourself up to date on the latest technology, websites and social networks you can help your children enjoy the Internet safely and securely.

To help protect your children online:

- keep computers, phones and games consoles in family rooms where you can monitor activity,
- install parental control software or activate parental controls through your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to prevent access to inappropriate content,
- 'friend' or 'follow' your child on social networks, so you can see how they're using them,
- check age restrictions for websites or social networks to make sure your children are allowed to join,
- advise your child not to post personal information, or any images they wouldn't want everyone to see,
- check their social media accounts' privacy settings, so their posts are only seen by friends and their location isn't tracked,
- avoid using webcams, unless talking to close friends or family, and consider covering it when not in use,
- monitor how your children use the Internet and watch for any secretive behaviour
- encourage your child to be open about what they do online, and who they're talking to,
- insist you go with them if they wish to meet online friends face to face,
- ensure the games your children play online are age appropriate.

SOURCE: METROPOLITAN POLICE. **Please feel free to share these messages with any vulnerable friends, relatives or neighbours.**

If you've fallen for fraud - Report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via actionfraud.police.uk.

Fake Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take early action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks. You can also report **fraudulent mobile calls** by texting 7726 with the word "Call" followed by the fraudster's phone number.

Forward Fake Emails received to: report@phishing.gov.uk

If you think your bank account or personal banking details have been used fraudulently, then use the short phone number - 159 - to contact the Fraud Prevention Department of most major UK banks.



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Local health champion publishes report on the experiences of using community pharmacies.



Working with NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and the Local Pharmaceutical Committee we developed a survey to ask patients about both their awareness of enhanced services and their experience of using pharmacy services.

Community pharmacies are offering more services and trying to help take the pressure off GP services. These include 'Pharmacy First' which provides consultation services and the supply of appropriate medicines for 7 common conditions including earache, sore throat, and urinary tract infections.

Healthwatch Shropshire wanted to hear from anyone who has used pharmacy services for any reason since February 2024.

The key recommendations are:

Consider the suggestions for improvement from the public in the report, in particular what can be done to reduce delays in dispensing medication and increasing access to GP appointments.

Speak to Pharmacists about their experiences of delivering the Pharmacy First service, in particular any issues around staffing capacity and what they think would help them to provide this service in a more seamless way that builds public confidence.

Consider how the Pharmacy First service can be promoted more effectively to different parts of our population, e.g. young people aged 16+ and those with limited access or experience of using technology. Where possible involve these groups in developing your approach through co-production.

Ensure there is correct and consistent messaging from GP practice staff and 111 about the Pharmacy First service and how to access it.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said, "We know that a lot of work is being done in Shropshire to encourage people to think about where they can go for advice and treatment rather than wait for a GP appointment or go to A&E. Some people had no idea that they can go to their community pharmacy and ask to speak to the pharmacist confidentially. The people who had used 'Pharmacy First' found their local pharmacist convenient and happy to help. We hope this report will make more people aware of the options open to them, while highlighting the support pharmacies need to be able to offer these services and increase public confidence."

The full report can be found here: <https://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/report/2025-03-27/shropshire-pharmacy-services-and-consultations>

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The Village Home Front - RAF REDNAL

Yoland Brown

It seems the war hardly impinged on the people of Ruyton but by 1942 it was very different for Rednal, one of the Eleven Towns near West Felton.

In 1939 in Britain there were around 100 airfields, some just grass runways, and by 1945 a further 1,000 had been built. An uncle of mine was told he had a weak heart so they sent him off to mix and lay concrete to build runways. There were even men who were told they could not join the forces as they were more valuable as a builder.

As the Luftwaffe had no idea where Shropshire was, or even that it was on the way to Merseyside, RAF Rednal was a good place to train young pilots. When you are 18, 19, 20 years old nothing can possibly happen to you - apparently the lads at Rednal would 'play' dog fights with American trainee fighter pilots from RAF Atcham!

Roger Hampson of Haughton Farm on the edge of Rednal airfield, was just 3 years old when he wandered out into the farmyard, and his father was on the other side of the yard, when 20 year old Stanley Lister crashed into the barn. Amazingly, neither Roger or his father was hurt, unlike the young pilot who died at the scene.

Once RAF Rednal was up and running, with accommodation for WAF (Women's Air Force) girls on site, the railway company made regular stops at Rednal railway station. One night, a group of girls who had been 'out on the town' returned and had to walk across the railway line to get home. The exact number has been lost in time but some of the group lost their lives when hit by an oncoming train. The accident led to a footbridge being erected at Rednal.

REDNAL AERODROME

From 1937 the number of planes being built in Britain, and aircrew in training, had been increasing at a great rate and in March 1938 the government announced that £11 million was to be spent building new aerodromes across the country. Rednal Aerodrome, was one of those installations. It was not completed until 1942 but provided work for many men, and boys still too young to join up. Ern Davies remembers how he and hundreds of other builders were still putting up sheds when pilots arrived to train as soon as the runways were completed. *"They were not bad at getting off the ground and flying about - the trouble came when the trainees tried to land".* He recalls that piles of sand were left alongside the runway. *"If a plane crashed-landed and went on fire it was put out with the sand and pushed out of the way so the other pilots could carry on training!"*

To be continued

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Who pays the priest?

Michael Davie

As St Michael's church enters its sixth month of vacancy this April, without a priest and with no evidence of anyone in the Diocese showing any interest in our getting one, parishioners own thoughts are on the move. The main constraints to an appointment the availability of clergy and the wherewithal to pay them. The two may be connected.

Clergy numbers are falling. There is a bulge of retirements presently ongoing and the number of people presenting themselves for ordination is only half of what is required. Quantity is not the only problem. Clergy like the TikTok curate, Pippa White, at Whitchurch, aged 29yr, prepared to visit and connecting with youngsters are a rare breed. Many ordinands are middle aged and not in the first flush of enthusiasm. During our present interregnum, many have commented on the quality of preaching by the retired clergy, most of whom have spent a whole lifetime in the church, compared with those of middle age, newly qualified. Experience counts.

Indeed it is surprising that any person offers themselves for ordination in middle age when the stipend is £28,000 per year, with a few perks, and the common tenure system may mean that you no longer have a job in 3-5 years. The income of a parish

priest has declined over the years. It is interesting to compare parish finances in West Felton in 1924 compared with 100 years later. In 1924 the parish quota (share) was £32-10s-0d (Heat and light cost much the same). In 2024 the share requested is £19,500, as 30% contribution towards a priest. In 1924 there was no contribution towards the Rector's salary: it all came from tithe. The Rector's income was reputed to be between £500-£1000 per annum. In straight adjustment for inflation, £500 is equivalent to about £38,000 today. This may be misleading. Adjustment for labour earnings would suggest an income of £500 in around 1930 would today would equate to £110,000. In the medical profession a GP, admittedly in the 1930's, would earn about £500; today a full time GP would expect a salary approaching £100,000/yr.

Several conclusions can be drawn from these comments. The pay of the clergy has fallen behind that of comparable professions. Inevitably this has meant that the quality of those applying for ordination has declined. It is a measure of how much the Church values its clergy in that their effective earnings, including perks, equates to that of a post recently advertised for a Net Zero Carbon officer for the Diocese when pensions are included. Long gone are the days

(Continued on page 25)

Annual property review

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(Continued from page 31) *The Home Front*

prepare for the inevitable war ahead, it was agricultural scientists, chemists and engineers who were about to change British agriculture out of all recognition. In came fertilizers, pesticides and, where farms were largely still using the power of horses, factories changed to producing tractors and mechanised farm implements. In 1939 the government paid farmers £2 an acre to plough up pasture and start planting potatoes, cabbage and root vegetables. The production of potatoes doubled and wheat increased by 2/3, bread and potatoes being the staple diet - it was estimated that 1/3 of the population fed on cheap white bread, some bacon, margarine and jam, and tea. The Ministry of Agriculture had the power to take possession of any land which was not being productive and farm workers were a *reserved occupation*, forbidden by law to leave their jobs. 649,000 horses worked on the land in 1939, and in 1945 this was reduced to 545,000, but was still a very large number. As the new tractors were being turned out, in 1939 there were 56,000, probably owned by go-ahead farmers, and by 1946 there were 203,000, and they were moved around from farm to farm. How ironic that the people starting to use these new machines to farm the land, would have been Land Army Girls!

THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY or LAND GIRLS

Joining the Women's Land Army was a way for girls to have some independence, work in the fresh air, cold, mud, rain, snow, and more mud!

The Women's Land Army had originally been formed during the first world war when so many men had left the land to fight in trenches in France and Belgium's farmland.

When WWII conscription came in, men left the land to join the forces and other occupations and, by 1940 over 45,000 men had been taken out of agriculture - this at a time when most of the men in a village like Ruyton would have been connected to the land in some way, from blacksmiths to general farm workers. For many this war was an opportunity to improve themselves as agricultural wages were at an all time low. In the summer of 1940, Ernest Bevan, the Minister of Labour, raised agricultural wages to a minimum of £4 a week and by June 1943 wages had risen to £5.5 shillings. Food production, after all was a vital munition of war, keeping the Home Front well fed kept the factories and the manufacture of weapons rolling off the production line.

It is interesting in these days of so much attention to health education, how much the subject was promoted during the war - illness meant you could not work and this could interfere with production. Also doctors, nurses and hospitals were needed to tend those who had been injured by battle and bombs.

To be continued next month

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(Continued from page 23 -Who pays the priest?)

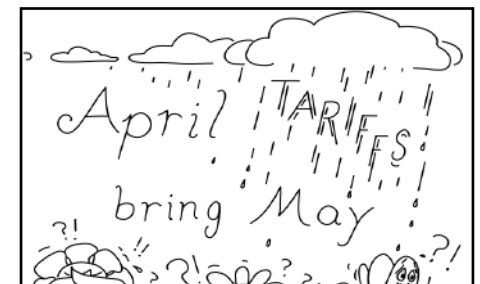
when clergy were expected to have a degree (originally only from Oxford or Cambridge). Indeed West Felton at one time had a Rector who was subsequently appointed to the chair of Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge.

The failure of clergy pay to keep up with the times stems from a number of causes. Apart from Dioceses spending funds on such people as Net Zero Carbon officers instead of clergy, the source of clergy remuneration has altered dramatically. In 1924 the parish quota equated to one quarter of the combined collections from St Michael's and St Chad's. Today it is two and quarter times the combined collections. The difference can be explained by the tithe and the glebe. Tithe was a much hated tax on land to pay the clergy and was redeemed in 1936 by the government (Full disclosure: my great uncle was a leading light in the anti-tithe league). Glebe was held by the incumbent of a parish to provide an income. Today all glebe is held by Dioceses in the Church of England.

The Tithe redemption monies and Queen Anne's Bounty were effectively combined in the Church Commissioners in 1948. Funds held by this body totalled £10 billion in 2023. The Income in 2023 was £1.92m (1.9%) and total return including capital gain £345m. According to Church of Eng-

land statistics there were 7670 stipendiary clergy in 2020. If the income were allocated to these, each could expect to get about £25k from the Church commissioners. Unfortunately the Commissioners have got tied up with providing clergy pensions pre 1998, climate change, Diversity, equality and inclusion and special developments. The £3.5million given to Telford Minster is an example of this. At present the support that the Church Commissioners give to the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance is about £7.5k per priest. The Commissioners decision to transfer £100,000,000 to Africa to atone for slavery has also caused enormous resentment. Questions have been raised in the church's governing body about the misallocation of resources that could be better applied to clergy stipends.

The funding situation is unlikely to change, so parishes must necessarily begin to make arrangements for their continuation. New practices and duties, better leadership and better allocation of resources will be needed. But ideas about that must wait for next month. ●



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THE HOME FRONT - 80 years ago

In 2005, for the 60th anniversary of the end of Second World War, Yoland Brown, Ruyton XI Towns historian, produced a **Village Home Front exhibition**, showing how people lived in villages like Ruyton XI Towns in those difficult six years. (Coton, Eardiston, West Felton, Haughton, Rednal, Ruyton, Shelvock, Shotatton, Sutton, Tedsmore, and Wykey are the eleven townships.)

Now, for the 80th anniversary she has been publishing in her newsletters some of that information, a reminder for many of us and possibly new information for others. This is a very much abridged version of the work of Yoland and her History Soc colleagues.

THE HOME GUARD - Even as Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain arrived back from Munich in September 1938, claiming "Peace in our Time" all sorts of plans were being made which would affect everyone for many dark years to come. Volunteers signed up for ARP wardens (Air Raid Precautions) but I doubt they had a lot to do in our village, except perhaps shouting at people who let a chink of light out from their blackout curtains. Hardly necessary in the countryside.

The Home Guard, on the other hand, had every ex soldier, and lads too young to join up, rushing to join the Home Front - even if they did not have a uniform, gun or ammunition for months. In the first week 250,000 men had signed up and by the beginning of July the numbers had reached 5,000. Men who worked at the Kraft Dairy in RXIT were in a *protected occupation* and did not have to join the services or the Home Guard. The country needed cheese.

For those who did not go into the forces there was much vital work to be done in Britain. Ern Davies was working on a new wing at Ellesmere College when, at the outbreak of war, the Ministry called up all builders to work on projects for the war effort and Mr. Davies went to work on building Rednal aerodrome and later the munitions dumps at Shrawardine.

FARMING - Before the war, farming had been through a period of acute depression due, to some extent, to refrigeration. Ships could travel across the world and return with frozen meat, refrigerated fruit and vegetables, at a lower price than they could be produced in Britain. Thousands of acres were left to go wild and farm workers moved to find work in the towns.

Research has revealed some interesting statistics which would not have been available during the war: When, in the late 1930s, the government started to



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Reverend Prebendary David R North

Many of you will know that I have been under the care of a Cardiologist for some years. He has looked after me with great care enabling me to carry on my ministry, albeit in a limited way, since I retired. He has now advised me that the time has come when I should hang up my robes for good. His advice comes at the time when my Permission to Officiate (PtO) expires. A PtO is issued by a Bishop to allow clergy to take services. Retired clergy are required to embark on a significant amount of work to get the notice renewed.

I shall therefore not be undertaking any further services from the middle of March 2025, other than those few Sunday morning services to which I am committed between now and the end of April. I have notified the local Funeral Directors of this decision.

It is with much sadness that I have taken this step. To be called to serve Our Lord through Ordination to the Priesthood is not only an honour but also a privilege. Throughout my ministry I have sought to uphold that privilege, even in retirement. I could not however have served Our Lord alone and my thanks are due to the countless numbers among you who have striven so marvellously to help and guide me along the road.

I shall of course remain living in Whittington, but I would ask you to respect my decision to retire completely.

David North 16th March 2025

***Below: Rev'd David as President of Oswestry Show 2022,
with Chairman, Janet Ward and President's Consort, Mrs Ruth Roberts.***



Remembering VE Day – 80 Years On

On May 8th, 2025, the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, marking the end of World War II in Europe.

The Second World War generation changed the course of history, and commenced the rebuilding of an exhausted country in the post war years. These men and women defended the freedoms we enjoy today.

We remember their service and sacrifice.

2005 - Twenty years ago, as the Nation celebrated the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, West Felton took the opportunity to thank their

twelve surviving veterans, eleven men and one woman, Queen Alexandra's Nursing Officer, Major Barbara Brewster. We had a big party in the grounds of the Punch Bowl. Their fascinating stories were published in this magazine over the preceding months. They were presented with a special medal minted for the occasion and a certificate conveying the gratitude of the people of West Felton. The whole village turned out, from the little children to their elders. Food and drinks flowed, there was dancing and singing and most of all it was made clear to the veterans that we recognised them and thanked them for their service and our freedom.

