

AgeUK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin ext.231	01743 233123
BINS - Waste Management customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk	0345 6789007
CAXTON SURGERY https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx	01691 654646
Citizens Advice Bureau, Castle View	03444 991100
CORBET SCHOOL www.corbetschool.net	01939 260296
DIAL-A-RIDE, Volunteer Bureau and Qube Arts centre (main switchboard Osw.Community Action)	01691 656882
ELECTRICITY Scottish Power (Manweb as was)	0800 001 5400
KNOCKIN Medical Practice	01691 682203
NHS Out of Hours Service	111
Orthopaedic Hospital	01691 404000
PARISH COUNCIL email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	
PRADOE CHURCH: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	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: Revd Suzan Williams	01691 674948
Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
ST. CHAD'S: Chapel Warden: Mrs A Hampson	01691 610845
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Secretary	01691 610357
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number 01691 831251 /	07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: President: Rhian	07375 997 782

Year 32

FEBRUARY 2025

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

Coming soon to West Felton ...



❄️ **TUESDAY TOTS** ❄️
stay & play group, back in School,
see page 13

W H A T 'S O N

Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 School Hall
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT... see page 51
Pilates Class	Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book 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.

NEW

6 Feb 25	10- 12noon COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	
7 Mar25	5:30pm Jack Dent, CHILDREN'S MAGIC SHOW.	
9 April	Easter Bingo, Village Hall	

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

West Felton Branch Chairman Jim Maxwell
Branch Sec: Amanda Wood 01691 610 357

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS IN THE PUNCH BOWL 8PM, FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH, EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS, THEN SECOND MONDAY.



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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 FEBRUARY 2025

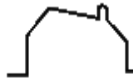
Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

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



WEST FELTON STORES

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2nd Feb : Family Service
2nd March : Family Service
30th March : Mothers Day Service
6th April : Family Service
**20th April : Easter Sunday Service
with Communion**
4th May : Family Service
1st June : Family Service
6th July : Family Service



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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 MEETINGS 2024-25

11 February 2025

8 April 2025

11 March 2025

13 May 2025

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PC 21312 Bryant, M: 07773 053015. Direct Dial: 101.

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

PCSO 40373 Stuart Carroll | M: 07970 544372 | Direct Dial: 101 Ext. 7704043

PCSO Kurt Mabe M: 07870 219669

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



West Felton Walking Group

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

EXCEPT on the first Monday of the month when departure is 9:30 to allow time to travel to our chosen destination for the away day walk. New members always welcome.

Walk leaders:-

Mike Bossen 01691 610623

Hilary Iles 01691 610707

**John & Eileen Hanmer
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[cutandcolourbaschurch](https://www.facebook.com/cutandcolourbaschurch)

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.

Report from Chairman, Cllr John Thornhill

The January meeting of the Council takes place after the
production of this Bulletin but there will be a full report
in the next edition.

Asset of Community Value - In the last Bulletin I was pleased to
inform you that the Punch Bowl had been listed as an Asset of
Community Value (AVC). I am now sorry to report that the owner
of the Punch Bowl Inn has requested that Shropshire Council re-
view their decision to list the Punch Bowl as an AVC, and that a
review will now take place to be completed by 17 February 2025.

Tedsmore Road Play Area ROSPA annual inspection. A positive
report from the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents has been
received and fully discussed. We have asked the grounds mainte-
nance contractor to look at the moderate risk issues identified on
the Activity Trail and report back.

Community Watch Scheme. We received enough volunteers to
move the project forward and have passed details on to the police
who have the responsibility for running the scheme. However we
would like more willing parishioners to join the scheme and ask if
you would like to be involved please contact the Clerk as above.

(Continued on page 9)

Shropshire Landscapes



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CHRISTMAS TRIVIA - answers

1. The Twelve Days of Christmas finishes on which date traditionally? **January 5th**
2. Which of Santa's reindeer comes first alphabetically? **Blitzen**
3. The Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree is a gift from which city to London, a longstanding tradition since 1947? **Oslo, Norway**
4. If you're born on Christmas day, what's your star sign? **Capricorn**
5. The original name for mistletoe was mistaltan. With 'Tan' coming from the Anglo Saxon word for stick, mistletoe literally translates to what on a stick? **Dung**
6. How do you say 'Merry Christmas' in Spanish? **Feliz Navidad**
7. Which country is Europe's largest exporter of natural Christmas trees? **Denmark**
8. What do elves typically have on their shoes? **Bells**
9. What colour suit did Santa Claus originally wear before the iconic red suit? **Green or Brown or Blue.**
10. What type of bird usually appears on Christmas cards? **Robins**
11. What gifts did the three wise men give Jesus? **Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh**
12. What are small, inexpensive gifts usually called? **Stocking Fillers**
13. Which reindeer's name means 'thunder'? **Donner**
14. In which modern-day country was Saint Nicholas born? **Turkey**
15. What's the main colour of the berries of the mistletoe plant? **White**
16. Which country is credited with the creation of the Christmas beverage, eggnog? **England**
17. What is the last day of Advent? **24th December**
18. In Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", how many ghosts visit Scrooge? **Four**
19. In "A Christmas Carol", what does Scrooge have for his Christmas dinner? **Gruel**
20. Which country is known for its tradition of a "witch" delivering presents to children at Christmas? **Italy - La Befana**
21. Which saint's day is celebrated on 26th December? **St Stephen**
22. In which ocean can you find Christmas Island? **Indian Ocean**
23. What time is the King's speech usually broadcast on Christmas Day? **3pm**
24. How many Scrabble points for the word 'Christmas'? **16**
25. Where is the tradition of filling children's clogs with candy? **The Netherlands**
26. Which most popular toy of 1980 was designed by a professor of architecture in Budapest to teach his students about spatial awareness? **Rubik's Cube**

Annual property review 2024

Are you curious about the value
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need to make informed
decisions about your
home and investment.
Kind regards,
Daniel & team

01691 674494



The Don,
Albion Hill,
Oswestry
SY11 1QA

daniel@danieljamesresidential.com



(Continued from page 7) Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan. We are still considering moving forward with a Neighbourhood Plan and investigating the availability of funding to support such a development.

Conservation Area signs. A meeting has at last been arranged with relevant Shropshire Council Traffic managers to consider the placement and nature of Conservation signage to identity the area.

Tree Condition & Amenity Assessment report. Tree surveys have been undertaken in the area and will be considered at the January meeting.

Community engagement. We are moving forward with our Community Engagement Programme scheme to ensure we engage more effectively with our parishioners. A detailed report will be published later but your views are most welcome.

Flooding in West Felton. The recent bad weather has had an adverse impact and the Council will consider the problem, possible causes, and how we can best assist residents affected. ♦

Road Closure:

Unnamed road Rednal Mill Rail Bridge, Queens Head

Start Date: 12th February 2025, **End Date:** 13th February 2025

Purpose: Road Closure - Detail examination of underbridge. Working times 23:00 - 06:00. Works Promoter: Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
Works Promoter Ref: KL431WSJ18478120225MP-01

Enforcement pattern for Unnamed road Rednal Mill Rail Bridge,
Queens Head: 23.00 - 06.00hrs.

You can view the closure and diversion route at

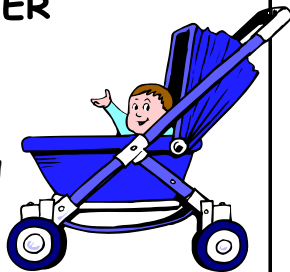
<https://one.network/?tm=140996181>

**Should you have any queries regarding this closure,
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WEST MERCIA POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER'S NEWSLETTER

In his latest newsletter Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, amongst many other initiatives, particularly stated that, *"Improving safety on our roads and reducing the harm caused on them is another key element within my plan. Whilst the latest figures show deaths on our roads are relatively few compared to other forces of a similar size, one fatal collision is one too many. That's why I continue to invest in the latest technology to support roads policing in the area."*

During the past three years 20 people have been killed on the roads in Shropshire by speeding drivers. A further 123 people have suffered serious injuries where speeding or inappropriate speed was noted as a contributory factor. *"That's why I've invested in the latest TruCam technology to support local policing teams."*

WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL

Update from the Village Hall Committee

Upcoming events in the village hall include:

- **Jack Dent Children's Magic Show on the 7th of March starting at 5.30pm.** Please can all parents and grandparents purchase tickets for the children as soon as possible, so that the committee can plan around numbers attending.
- The following month we have our annual **Easter Bingo** event - please put this on your calendars for 9th of April.

On a not so positive note the hall was targeted by graffiti artists over the Christmas period.

Fortunately this has been cleaned off. We hope that there are no further occurrences of this nature.

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

MAY 2025

*A reminder
from the editor*

Over the past months we have been able to see much more clearly the working of our West Felton Parish Council from the reports in this magazine. It has been very interesting, hasn't it? Perhaps it made you think, "I would like to be involved in parish affairs like that" ?

Why be a Parish Councillor?

If you care about your local community, West Felton Parish Council needs you.

Being a councillor is a varied and highly fulfilling role. You don't need any experience or special qualifications, and you'll gain lots of new skills, experience, knowledge, and confidence.

Young people are especially welcome.

Of course, you are busy with work and family life, but quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about three hours a week. Obviously, there are some councillors who spend more time than this – and some less, but in the main, being a local councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

Being a councillor is all about giving back to your community by bringing your energy, passion, and hard-working attitude. People from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities they serve are needed to put themselves forward.

Am I qualified?

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish council election you must be at least 18 years old; be a British citizen, and live in the area. There are specific rules around candidacy. All you need to do is contact Rosemary, the Parish Clerk, or any of the West Felton councillors they will give you all the help you need.

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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**WEST MERCIA
POLICE**

Kurt Mabe

Oswestry Rural South safer neighbourhood team

Hello everyone,

A group of villagers has organised and put themselves forward to start a Community Speed Watch in the village, which is highly commendable.

I have sent out the forms to those involved for the vetting process which needs to be done before any further action can go forward.

This is a simple form which only needs two sections filling in (the second and third sections).

I will then attend that person's home and verify that they are who they say they are by way of viewing their driving licence or passport.

Unfortunately, I have only had one form filled out and collected by myself (which is awaiting the rest to be completed before being sent), and one reply stating that they have received the request and will contact me when it is ready.

I will need ALL the forms to go as one package or it will take even longer to process. The process can be quite lengthy at the best of times.

**If you are one of the group who wants to start the process,
please check your email spam and inboxes
and print off the form, and fill it in.**

**It is literally five minutes work and a further five minutes for me
to do the verification process (unless you offer me tea !!!)**

Drop me an email when ready to kurt.mabe@westmercia.police.uk with your address and mobile number. I'll contact you to arrange collection at your convenience.

Kurt Mabe, Oswestry SNT



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME

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WHITTINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Whittington Music Festival takes place each May and brings international musicians to North Shropshire playing in a series of concerts.

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

<https://www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk/>

Details of the artists are also available online.

Fund raising concert 'Whittington in Winter'

Renowned baritone Peter Edge is travelling straight from the Royal Opera House Covent Garden to give a recital. Come and hear English songs, and arias from your favourite operas at **3pm on Saturday 8 February**.

Peter will be accompanied by pianist Martin Bussey.

Proceeds will support the festival. Details on the web site.

Wilfred Owen Festival 2025

March 15th - March 23rd

The Wilfred Owen Festival 2025 is dedicated to honouring the life and works of the renowned poet and soldier in the town of his birth. It follows on from the festival in 2018, during the worldwide Centenary Commemorations of the end of World War One, marking his death just days before the cessation of hostilities in November 1918.

Classical Music Concert

Sunday 23 March 2025 at 7:30pm, Christ Church, Oswestry SY11 1JN

A concert for Peace & Reconciliation

directed by Christopher Symons and featuring the Wilfred Owen String Quartet of instruments.

These were made from the wood of a sycamore tree at Craiglockhart Hospital where Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon were patients together.

The instruments are joined by a violin played in Auschwitz.

For ticket sales (£15) and further information about the festival go to wilfredowenfestival.co.uk

(For more Wilfred Owen events see web site above).



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The successful candidate will need to be patient, understanding and have a positive outlook. Some experience with disability would be an advantage. Would need to be able to transport Felicity and her motorized wheelchair.

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(Continued from page 37) *Value of a Church*
ing that the church was there and represented a cohesive force for families and villages. The church is, as the sociologist David Martin wrote, "a visible sign of continuity, (an) anchor of space and time". Families would tend to support the church. Competition arose between local churches in order to ensure that 'your' church did not let the side down.

With farms becoming bigger and equipment more specialised, the families that supported the community and the tradesmen, with the skills that they gave to the area, declined. The new inhabitants who replaced the old families had less reason to support the church. Many may only stay in a community for a short time before their occupation takes them elsewhere. The affection for the church fades, although the mention of a church in an estate agent's brochure may have a positive effect on house prices. In the face of these challenges the role of the country church becomes less distinct. They may host other enterprises such as shops or post offices, but their architecture with high ceilings does not lend itself to comfort.

Any change, be it the pencil chewing churchwarden at one extreme to the builder wishing to convert the church to another use at the other, is imme-

diately brought up against planning regulations. Churches are often listed buildings. This usually means that anything that might be done is going to cost a great deal more in order to satisfy all the interested bodies such as English Heritage and the Victorian society. All usually have expensive recommendations. Unlike France where the state has responsibility for churches, although church and state were separated in 1905, the British government has no responsibility for churches. Even worse it is likely that the present government will abolish the right to claim back VAT on any church repairs. There are charities which help with preservation of churches although most expect the local church to raise 50% minimum of the total cost.

St Michael's, in common with many churches, is in need of maintenance. The cost is likely to exceed £40,000 (including VAT) by the time the necessary architect has overlooked all the application and advised on the methods and materials to be used, the planning process has been completed and the necessary quotes obtained. And then comes the matter of writing to charities to ask for their help. The repairs to St Michael's may come to 0.005% of the cost of the repairs to Notre D me, but it still seems a lot of money. ♦

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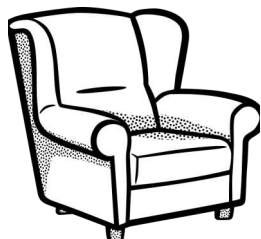


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Happy New Year from the Carnival Committee!

The Christmas tree managed to weather the storm!
A big thank you to everyone who helped to reinforce
the base for this year's tree.

The date for the 2025 Carnival is Sunday 6th July.

We've heard rumours that meetings are already happening
to discuss float ideas!

If you would like to keep up to date with what's happening,
or are interested in having a stall,
participating in the parade or on stage,
please follow our Facebook page 'West Felton Carnival'.

We look forward to making 2025 the best Carnival yet!

Missing Policeman?

Thanks to the community minded
neighbours who reported missing
Bob the 'policeman' stationed near
the school, the mystery has been
solved.

We thought he might have gone
home for Christmas, but, no, we
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VALUE OF A CHURCH?

Michael Davie

As a churchwarden chews the end of his pencil wondering what to enter into the various boxes of the Diocesan faculty form, a necessary prelude to any church repairs, he is inevitably given to wonder what is the value of a church. He is not alone in this. Many wardens looking after grade II* listed churches have similar feelings as they struggle not only to complete the form – even to the extent of specifying the mix of lime mortar required – but also to contemplate whence the money to do the repairs will be found.

Unsurprisingly given recent news items, his mind turned to Notre D  me which was recently fully restored within a five year period after a disastrous fire. Three items took his attention. First, the French state immediately said that it would be rebuilt and underwrote the cost. Even more fortunate was that money flowed in from around the world to meet the eventual cost of around  800m. Finally the whole restoration was done in 5 years. Such a time span would be unthinkable in this country. It would take longer than that to get the planning permission. There are those who feel that church buildings detract from what we should be worshipping. Evangelicals are not particularly attracted to

buildings, citing the words of St Paul ‘Ye are the body of Christ and members in particular’ and ‘.we being many are one body in Christ, and every one member of another’. The remarkable response to the destruction of Notre D  me does nevertheless reveal the feeling that a building is a potent symbol. Buildings are seen as a witness to a Higher Authority, not only in the Christian religion, but in others such as the Sikh Gurdwara, the Muslim Mosque and the Jewish Temple. Church buildings do attract people, often the more ornate the greater the attraction. In England cathedrals are one of the few Christian venues actually showing an increase in attendances.

Country churches, standing serenely over a churchyard, filled with gravestones dating back centuries often evoke long memories in local people. Urban churches, which may be lost amidst a welter of shops and businesses make a lesser impression, though their interiors may be no less beautiful. The country church used to draw its strength from the support of the local community, many families of which had been living in the area for centuries. Successive generations had been baptised, confirmed, married in church and relations contributed to the inhabitants of the churchyard. There was a feel-

(Continued on page 39)

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Winter winds

Some years ago, I remarked that there seemed to have been more windy days than usual. The last couple of years has certainly confirmed that suspicion, at least for where I garden. In the last two autumn storms, I was somewhat surprised, but much relieved, that we only suffered minor damage as I was convinced that we must lose at least a part of a large tree. However, even minor damage adds to the work load and we had more than enough small branches to clear up as well as wayward pots to retrieve. If indeed there is an increase in strong winds, what does it mean for the gardener? By far the biggest thing would be increased risk of structural damage, but it also means that we might need to pay more attention to staking vulnerable plants and perhaps give thought to deliberately introducing tough plants to act as windbreaks. Or perhaps the plants will react by stiffening their resolve.

The first jobs for February will be to keep out of the wind and anything else nasty the weather may throw at us and do the glasshouse spring cleaning, even if it is not actually spring. There is a feeling of satisfaction in seeing everything tidy, no cobwebs and clean glass. With that done, my attention will turn to sharpening tools. I see this as being divided into two groups: the really sharp tools such as knives and secateurs and the relatively blunt things like

spades and hoes. You possibly could need to start with a grindstone for badly damaged cutting instruments but generally they can be dealt with using a whetstone or a diamond coated sharpening tool. Nowadays, I usually use a diamond tool. Incidentally, whet does not mean wet but is from the old English meaning to sharpen or encourage. I like the idea of encouraging the tools. Spades and hoes are readily dealt with using a flat file but there are some designs of hoe that need a rather large round file. I find that axes fall a bit between the two types as they should be fairly sharp but usually need some surgery from a file or grindstone. Perhaps I illtreat mine.

People vary somewhat in their opinion as to when garlic should be planted with many favouring Autumn. However, I have usually been of the Spring brigade but this year will go for early February, which in a sense is a compromise between the two. Again, I will be planting cloves in 11 cm plastic rings (cut from drain pipe) filled with compost as I have found this to work well for avoiding fungal diseases.

As the month progresses, the spring cleaning can progress outside to clearing debris from paths and tidying pots. It will then be time to cut out autumn raspberry canes and set mouse traps in the glasshouse if not done already. It is nearly spring so review the actions from the July assessment. ♦



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(Continued from page 31)WFWI

Christmas lunch at The Queen's Head: thanks to Sally W for organising. Excellent food and company.

Upcoming: Sat Feb 8th **Ally Glass Studio** creative event afternoon, using the £100 2024 bursary, includes making a necklace and a 30-minute talk. Members to pay only £2.

Next year's programme is being finalised. Any member with brilliant ideas to suggest for speakers etc., or outdoor meetings, to see Jo L as soon as possible. The booklet goes to the printers in February.

2025 Bursary: Applications for WFWI bursary (£100) to be decided in March, members invited to apply for funding towards an educational course or event.

Shoeboxes: Marian thanked all members who contributed to the Shoebox Appeal and helped with postage costs. Boxes will be sent out internationally to those in need.

December Speaker: Rhian welcomed Liz Wilson from Ma Baker, a specialist bakery in Overton-on-Dee, who demonstrated her bread-making skills and told the story of her journey from Australia to London to Overton near Wrexham. She demonstrated how to knead the dough and gave us plenty of hints and tips on how to make the perfect loaf. The samples provided were delicious! She also runs various breadmaking courses at the bakery.

Next meeting: 9th January, 7pm in the village hall, will be a Members' Night. A social evening with no guest speaker.

February meeting - 13th February, 7pm, in the village hall. **Claire Tatler** will be guest speaker on the subject of **Gardening in Historic Places**. Claire, who lives in Much Wenlock, has a Masters in Horticulture (MHort), passing with distinction, and is currently the Head Gardener at Wollerton Old Hall. She was awarded the Chittenden Memorial Prize by the Royal Horticultural Society for graduating top of her cohort. She previously worked at Combermere Abbey, Elton Hall and the National Trust in Herefordshire (The Weir). ♦

"When you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it." —Theodore Roosevelt

"Anyone can do any amount of work, provided it isn't the work he's supposed to be doing at that moment." —Robert Benchley



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The Oswestry and Borders food bank made 215 Christmas hampers filled with food goodies, toiletries, gifts and toys as well as treats for pets. They were made as bespoke as possible and were all collected by agencies and schools: agencies such as housing, family nurses, health visitors, Early Help teams and social workers. Every hamper had supermarket vouchers included, either from Morrisons for Oswestry families or Tesco if they lived in Ellesmere and surrounding area. The vouchers ranged from £10 for a single person to £50 for a family of 9 +.

Whilst the hampers were being made by volunteer teams at Cabin lane, the foodbank continued to be operated for emergency food parcels, led by the deputy manager Susannah. The volunteers have worked incredibly hard and have made up hundreds of emergency food packs in the last couple of weeks alone and the support services have been greatly in demand in number 58 - Samaritans, Women's Aid, Citizens Advice and mental health.

Our building number 58 is key to helping people move out of the situations they find themselves in and there have been some real achievements in this.

We have a further year of funding for number 58 and we are praying that it is able to continue and I will be busy looking for funders in the new year. We are so grateful to all the people who continue to donate food, money and time.

Bless you and thank you once again for your generous and kind hearts in remembering the most needy in our communities.

Sincerely, Liz

"To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is, living not for oneself but for one's community." —Ruth Bader Ginsburg



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WEST FELTON WI (WFWI)

New President Rhian welcomed members to the December meeting, including two visitors, Carol and Diana.



Ann Hampson expressed thanks for the brooch and plant which she received for her four decades of dedication to the Committee. Clare Harrison, the Pembrokeshire-based soprano soloist who entertained in November wrote to say how much she enjoyed the evening and would be happy to return.

Treasurer's report - Annual accounts completed and sent off to the independent financial examiner.

Subscriptions: Annual subscriptions due on April 1st 2025 would have been £51 but WFWI have decided to subsidise each member by £6 so they will pay £45 this renewal. This decision will be reviewed for coming years.

The bank balance is healthy but National Federation strongly recommends that institutes have two years' worth of running costs in reserve, therefore members were reminded of the importance of fundraising throughout the year.

IMPORTANT: Bank details: The change to Lloyds Bank was discussed. Members were reminded to note the new Lloyds details for future payments, and to delete Barclays Bank details. Thanks to June for organising the transition.

Christmas Fayre: Success! Sorters and sellers and cake bakers and rat makers! Huge thanks. Feedback welcome to further improve the next one in 2026, The income was welcome; it must cover two years expenditure on speakers, outings etc. Thanks to local businesses for their support, Morrison's and Battams the Butchers.

Projector screen: Village Hall Committee has granted permission for the installation of a new screen. WFWI to cover all costs, purchase the screen, take down the old and put up new wider screen. A grant to cover most of the costs has been awarded by West Felton Parish Council.

Update on boosting WIFI signal: The Village Hall committee is looking into this and thanked WI for their efforts. Repeater needed to boost the signal.

Events since November's meeting: Members attended the North Shropshire Group Carol Service at St Martin's Church in Gobowen. Kathy B gave a reading, thank you.

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Important information for dog walkers



Bag your dog's poo, and place
it in a bin or take it home.



Make sure your dog is on a
lead on the public highway.



Ensure your dog is always
under control.



Keep your dog out of fenced
play or sports areas.

A public spaces protection order (PSPO) is now in place
across the Shropshire Council area to help tackle the
problem of dog fouling and bad behaviour.

Under the PSPO the above can all be enforced and fixed penalty
notices of £100 can be issued to dog walkers who allow a
dog to foul pavements and public amenity spaces without
clearing up afterwards.

For more information visit www.shropshire.gov.uk

West Felton CofE Primary School News from Beech Class



Beech class is made up of children in Years 2 and 3.

During the Autumn term, Beech class learnt about Attingham Park. In Geography, we studied a map of the British Isles, identifying countries and cities where we live. We also developed our field work skills, followed compass directions and looked at our map skills, using symbols, co-ordinates and keys. In History, we looked at how Attingham Park has changed over the years. We enjoyed a trip to Attingham Park which supported our learning in class.



The children continue to use Emile - an online spelling programme which exposes children to new words, including their rules and patterns and supports children's spelling abilities. Each week there is an 'Emile of the Week' certificate presented to a member of each class throughout the school.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled Spring term.



We will be learning about Ancient Egypt and are excitedly awaiting an 'Unwrapping Ancient Egypt' workshop led by Shrewsbury museum.

This workshop will help us to explore our topic of Ancient Egypt through an exploration of the ancient world of the Pharaohs.

We will be given opportunities to handle artefacts and look at papyrus from Egypt. The children will meet some of the individuals from the Egyptian society and learn about their religious beliefs.

Finally, we will decode some Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. There may even be a mummification as we learn about the embalming process!