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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
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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: Cllr David Walker	01691 897117
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 - 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

JULY 2025

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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.

Last 2 weeks of June	Carnival committee will be calling house to house collecting goodies for the Tombola and Grand Prize. Bottles, chocolate, biscuits - <i>things YOU would like to win!</i> Please have your bag ready! No bric-a-brac, please.	24
3 July	10-12 noon COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING Village Hall	23
6 July	WEST FELTON CARNIVAL	24
11 Oct	WEST FELTON ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR, Village Hall - book your stall now.	

LOOK



2025/6 School term dates
are provided on page 5. If you find them useful, please tear out and keep the list.

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The Post Office is no longer located in the entrance lobby of the village hall. On 20 May we were informed by the retiring postmistress of the cessation of the service with effect from 11th June 2025.

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 JULY 2025

Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

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**Sunday 3rd August at 10.30 am :
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**Sunday 7th September at 10.30 am :
Family Service**



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Term Dates: 2025 – 2026

PD Days = children not in school

SUMMER TERM Starts: Monday 28th April 2025
Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 5th May 2025
Half Term: Monday 26th May 2025 - Friday 30th May 2025
Summer Term Ends: Friday 18th July 2025

AUTUMN TERM:

PD Days: Monday 1st September & Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Autumn Term Starts: Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Half Term: Monday 27th October 2025 – Friday 31st October 2025
PD Day: Monday 3rd November 2025
Autumn Term Ends: Friday 19th December 2025
Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 – Mon 5th January 2026

SPRING TERM:

PD Day: Monday 5th January 2026
Spring Term Starts: Tuesday 6th January 2026
Half Term: Monday 16th February 2026 - Friday 20th February 2026
Spring Term Ends: Friday 27th March 2026
Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026

SUMMER TERM:

Summer Term Starts: Monday 13th April 2026
Bank Holiday (school closed): Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term: Monday 25th May 2026 - Friday 29th May 2026
Summer Term Ends: Friday 17th July 2026



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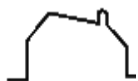
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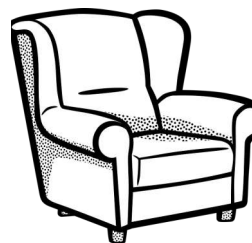


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Clerk to West Felton Parish Council: **Mrs Rosemary WOOD**

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 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 318005
Cllr David WALKER	01691 897 117
Shropshire Councillor	Cllr David Walker

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025-26

8 July 2025	9 December 2025
(no meeting in August)	13 January 2026
9 September 2025	10 February 2026
14 October 2025	10 March 2026
11 November 2025	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**

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Report from West Felton Parish Chairman, Cllr John Thornhill

Flooding in West Felton near Tedsmore Road. In the April edition I commented on the response from John Bellis of Shropshire Council to our unease regarding continued flooding. The Clerk wrote to him expressing the Members' surprise and concern regarding the pipe being only 9 inches with a request for his thoughts. So far, we have still not received a reply despite a reminder.

Rednal Battery Plant. Council further discussed this application with members having provided more relevant information. We have submitted a detailed response as below.

Noise pollution. The increase in noise is acknowledged in the application and mitigation of fencing is promised. However, in the consultee comments SC Regulatory are recommending refusal. Local residents will undoubtedly suffer from a significant increase in decibels to high, continuous levels both day and night. There does not seem to be any relevant or detailed proposal for mitigating sound pollution.

Whilst mitigation is included with the provision of an acoustic fence, there is no data indicating by how much decibel levels would be reduced. The noise survey needs to be clarified, as to whether the noise readings men-

tioned are with or without the acoustic fence. If they are without, then expected levels with the fence need to be provided, and if they are with the fence then the mitigation proposals are totally inadequate.

Fire and hazardous fumes. There is a known fire risk from lithium-ion batteries and subsequent thermal runaway. We understand that Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) thermal runaway occurs when a damaged lithium-ion battery cell releases flammable or toxic gases, triggering a chain reaction that spreads to adjacent cells. As this process accelerates, extreme heat and pressure build up, significantly increasing the risk of fires or explosions. Should this occur then there is a significant risk of widespread pollution to the surrounding area.

Traffic. There are concerns about the impact on the local highways, particularly as the construction phase will take up to twelve months and involve heavy construction vehicles and cranes. Vehicles would access the site through the A5/Queens Head junction, where SC highways as consultee highlights the number of serious collisions. Traffic would then travel along the Rednal straight which is

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9) Parish Council report heavily used already by traffic to and from ABP Ltd and in a very poor state of repair with many deep potholes. The impact on this road of many more heavy vehicles over an extended period of time is of great concern.

Scale. The scale of the proposed plant is huge and would affect sight lines and lead to an adverse visual impact in the countryside.

Consultation. The level of consultation for a development of such significance is totally insufficient. The consultation was conducted by a leaflet drop, with only a two week window for comments and no face to face meetings. The leaflet was arguably misleading and gave no indication of the scale of the proposed development. Furthermore, the residents who will be significantly affected by increased noise levels have not been notified of the planning application, and the site notice was displayed late, some time after 1st June.

We would encourage individuals to make your own representations to Shropshire Council planning allocations site using the Ref no 25/01250/FUL.

Defibrillator. When the defibrillator was installed, training was provided for members to be able to operate it. It is now time to renew that training as this must be undertaken every two years. The Clerk has enquired of the

first responders to ask if they would assist with this. So far we have not received a reply.

Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting was held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 in the School. It was disappointing that no members of the parish other than the ones representing various organisations and presenting reports attended.

Site meeting with Shropshire Council. In previous reports I referred the failure of Shropshire Council to respond to our request for a site visit to consider three main issues. A further request was made in the first week of June and a positive response resulted in a site visit held on Tuesday morning between the PC Clerk Rosemary Wood, Chair of the PC John Thornhill and a representative of the Highways Department of Shropshire Council, Harry Guest on 10th June 2025. A full report was presented to Council.

We had a positive discussion about Oak Lane Farm parking, the placement of Conservation Area Signs and Vehicle Activated Speed signs (VAS). Following our discussion we visited Oak Lane where relevant measurements were taken to consider the viability of a lay-by. The possible site would only allow for no more than three cars and affect the amenity and quality of the grass verge and Council agreed not to pursue the matter further.

(Continued on page 11)

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(Continued from page 10)

ther.

We then visited six other sites including The Avenue, Threadneedle Street, and Woolston Road. The Clerk's report was discussed and it was agreed to present a more detailed proposal to the July Council meeting. In the meantime quotations will be sought for both Conservation and VAS signs.

Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to move this forward and engage with parishioners. The Council will be pre-

sent at a stall during the Village Fete and you are welcome to come and express your views and complete a questionnaire about the needs of the village.

Letter to Helen Morgan. We discussed a letter received from our MP and agreed to respond to her on a number of items including postal facilities for the parish, travel facilities infrastructure, the provision for internet and telephone access.●

Shropshire Council Report: May 2025

Cllr David Walker, Shropshire Council: Whittington Division

Firstly, thank you for the kind words and support during the election.

The council's overall position was set in the budget, which was adopted last January. This is the envelope within which the new administration will have to operate this year:

Savings required this year: £57m

Reserves: £5m (audit says SC should have £15-20m)

CIL money: £30m unspent

Overspend: projected to be £34m. One department accounted for almost half of that.

The last admin borrowed £26.9m in March to avoid bankruptcy and balance the budget. That will cost £1.3m

in interest a year from the council's revenue.

Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) had been engaged by the previous council to identify savings, but PWC are costing the council £17,000 a day. Many of the existing savings identified aren't achievable.

Alarming, the council has had no controls in place for any contracts, making monitoring of performance and outcomes almost impossible. Yet Kier Group's highways/maintenance contract was extended for a year just before the election.

Overall, there is a 2-year backlog for adopting new roads and for Traffic Regulation Orders. Channels of com-

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

munication internally and externally are now very poor. The new administration is determined to improve this, transparency and partnership working.

Shropshire Council's corporate structure has already been moved away from departmental siloes to a leadership board, with staff reporting to multiple members of the board. The Chief Executive believes this will even out resources across the council structure and encourage more joined-up working. The new structure started in January, but the website still reflects the old structure.

So far, the new administration group has selected a Leader and Deputy Leader and, this week, the cabinet members. These executive positions will be formally ratified at the Full Council meeting on May 22nd. The Leader-elect has asked me to join the Cabinet to oversee Planning, including the Local Plan. Once all of the remaining annual meetings are complete this week, I will be able to dive into my new role properly.

Members are now undergoing induction training, which is to conclude in July.

On Friday 9th of May, I signed my Declaration of Acceptance of Office at my first induction session, which included official photos, collecting passes and IT equipment. At the same

time, my council email went live.

I would be grateful if members could send any Shropshire Council-related casework to:

cllr david.walker@shropshire.gov.uk

I don't have a council mobile yet, but I will let everyone know the number when it becomes available. Members can be assured that I will be answering both.

Existing emails and numbers are fine, but it will keep things simpler from a General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) perspective if Shropshire Council stuff is separate from my personal emails.

Since then, I have had a steady stream of casework, predominantly on planning matters and parking enforcement issues, along with the fallen tree limb on Twyford Lane fouling the overhead cables.

I contacted Freedom Fibre and Ben Walker about the fibre rollout in West Felton, which seems to have gone very quiet - Freedom Fibre pulled out of Project Gigabyte in Cheshire recently. Residents have been concerned that they had gone bust at one extreme, to questioning the delays at the other. As far as I am aware, only Tedsmore is connected. I was expecting everywhere to become available in January/February. Freedom Fibre seemed quite evasive when I asked them about progress.

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merv@mhcleaningservicesshropshire.co.uk

As soon as I was officially a member, I contacted Highways Maintenance officers to get an explanation of the rationale for the surface dressing between Queens Head and West Felton. I attended a briefing with Andy Wilde, Head of Infrastructure. There has been a marked shift in the approach to road maintenance to push surface dressing much earlier in a road's life than I was trained to see nearly 35 years ago. Modelling has shown that the cost per meter repaired for early intervention is a tiny fraction of a later traditional intervention. So newer stretches of road will now also see work undertaken to keep them like new. The council is trying to spread scarce resources and improve the rating of the whole network. Overall, for every road type, Shropshire's roads are in far worse condition than the country's average. Mr Wilde said that some roads will get worse as a result and be pushed towards the critical end of the assessment. With 80% of the network being rural roads, it is easy to see where that will fall. I will be digging into this further, as this does appear counterintuitive.

The provisional cabinet met with senior officers and the Local Government Association (LGA) to discuss the

shape of things to come. A further meeting took place between the provisional Cabinet and the Leadership Board of Shropshire Council to develop that further.

So far, Heather Kidd, Leader-elect, has set out some broad themes around the garden waste collection charges, use of consultancy, improving the way contracts are managed, improving the quality of highways maintenance, and better partnership working with town & parish councils. She requested a government off-ramp for the £215m North West Relief Road (NWRR) project, like the one Norfolk CC obtained. At present it will cost the Council £39m to stop the project or £215m to complete it. Neither of which the council can afford or deliver for Shropshire. The PWC contract has now been stopped.

There is a significant number of issues dating back some years that I will be picking up in relation to the Parish Council and more widely. I will be using my role to get some progress on those issues and to better communicate with both Parishes in Whittington Division. There is undoubtedly a very large job ahead on many fronts and I will keep everybody informed as things develop.●

Shropshire Council Report: June 2025

*Cllr David Walker, Shropshire Council:
Whittington Division*

This month has largely been a month for members to get their feet under the table, particularly for the newer

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

members. Full Council has taken place, so everyone has been appointed to their various roles and responsibilities. As previously alluded to, I am now the Cabinet member responsible for Planning. Specifically: Local Plan, Development Management, Planning Policy, Enforcement, CIL, Building Control, Natural and Historic Environment. I have had various meetings with officers to dig into my responsibilities.

Following last month's meetings, I have taken up the long-standing outstanding issues with officers at Shropshire Council and National Highways. I have worked and will continue to work to unblock **Community Infrastructure Levy** (CIL) spending where Shropshire Council have been blocking progress for one reason or another, particularly those where both West Felton and Whittington have money set aside to deliver a project. The CIL Local fund isn't working effectively, and I have asked officers to review its operation. I have also asked that there is more transparency in the process and that things are communicated back to parishes, whether good or bad news, rather than nothing. The Internal Infrastructure Group (IIG) was an officer group with no member input that allocated CIL Local funds. I have said that needs to change. CIL funds need to be released to enable projects to proceed.

On the Local Plan officers have set out their timetable for the new draft plan. They are waiting for new government guidance before they formally commence the 30-month preparation period, but they have been gathering evidence in readiness. They expect to formally start next year with adoption in Autumn 2028. This process needs to be in line with the latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Shropshire Council know their overall housing target thanks to the National Standard Needs Assessment methodology. However, they will need to review the settlement hierarchy and site allocations in light of the NPPF changes. As such there will be a new call for sites and this will take place imminently. Again, I have asked that there is more member involvement in this, where previously there was none, with better publicity when the call is made. I have also asked officers to promote Neighbourhood Plans more.

Cabinet meets next Wednesday for the first time with a number of items on the agenda. Most notably: the financial outturn for 2024/25 and Telecare charging structure consultation. (Telecare is a range of technologies to support safety and independence at home for elderly, disabled or vulnerable people.) The outturn is worse than in my last report with £60m of savings now being needed. Two thirds of which are savings that weren't de-

(Continued from page 41) Magazine report

hope of breaking even in 2025.

ACCOUNTS - The accounts are audited every year and found to be satisfactory. As mentioned, we did not break even, we had a £77.13 shortfall. The outgoings are minimal, there was a new charge relating to the website, bank fees, and increased cost of consumables. All the rest is borne by members of the committee without claim.

DONATIONS - We are extremely grateful to those generous readers who give donations and help to keep the magazine in production.

CONCLUSION - The climate has changed lately with fewer small, local traders wanting to advertise. Enquiries now come through the website, from Shrewsbury, etc. We are also getting much more community information from our local Police Force, Healthwatch, local government etc.

Whilst it has been a bit of a struggle financially, otherwise I feel we have had a successful year. Many people express their enjoyment and admiration for the magazine, and we have had several unexpected successes. All in all, I think we are still a great community asset.

Colleen Hughes, April 2025 ●

Park Hall

Countryside Experience

**Message from
FARMER RICHARD
Bring on the Summer!**

- * Our next events will be in the summer holidays - bringing you a different theme every week, and we have new ones this year!
 - * **Dino Week featuring a new robotic dinosaur** which we believe is the first of its type in the UK!
 - * **Let's Get Physical** with children's fun fitness classes and movement around the farm.
 - * **Bee Amaized** featuring the live Bee Knees Show and the opening of Maisy's Maize Maze.
 - * **Science Week** with Grandolph the Wizard.
 - * **Birdie Week** featuring Shropshire Falconry's live displays.
 - * **Bop and Pop** with a silent disco and junior disco with games.
- Until then, Park Hall is open Wednesday - Sunday from 10am - 5pm with plenty to explore on the farm.
Tickets are cheaper when you buy them online in advance.

*See you down on the farm very soon,
from Farmer Richard, the farm team and all the animals.*
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Approved: Quilter Financial Services Ltd and Quilter Mortgage Planning Ltd, July 2024.

livered last year. Cabinet will consider changes to Telecare to bring us more in line with other councils.

For my portfolio Cabinet will consider an application from Bayston Hill PC to define a Neighbourhood Plan area. Bayston Hill Parish Council cite the lack of a local plan as the reason for their application. A growing number of councils are now talking to Shropshire Council with a view to applying to the council to define their plan areas. Once a plan area is approved by cabinet the establishment of a community steering group can be done. Yet, grant funding for 2025/26 has not been announced. I have asked Julia Buckley MP and Helen Morgan MP to tackle the government about the grants as a matter of urgency.

I have written to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to ask why West Mercia had a lower profile online for the Operation Sceptre – the national campaign to cut knife crime. I also asked why Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) hours were changing with shifts finishing at 8pm. As I understand it the PCSO who revealed this has now been suspended. In the PCC's reply he pointed out that the consultation was internal so he couldn't reveal much beyond that the evidence shows antisocial behaviour incidents drop off dramatically after 8pm. But as we know rural crime doesn't stop at night.

Over the month the new administration has been setting out their priorities and how they are addressing them.

Fixing more potholes and improving the state of Shropshire's 3,200 miles of roads

Improving customer service across the council, making it more responsive and easier to do business with

Better and closer working with town and parish councils who can help take on some service services from Shropshire Council or may be better placed find simple solutions to issues in their area

Actions so far:

- **The Deputy Leader has written to all parish clerks asking their views on this and how we can work together to deliver for Shropshire. Hopefully, the cultural change will soon be more visible.**
- **Announced a new pothole repair crew has been added to the repair team. This extra team is employed directly by Shropshire Council, not Kier Group.**
- **If you use the park and ride in Shrewsbury then you might like to know that the frequency is increasing to a bus every 12 minutes instead of 20 minutes, from the end of June.**

(Continued on page 17)



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ROUND AND ABOUT WEST FELTON MAGAZINE

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting,
April 2025

Colleen Hughes Editor/Administrator

The accounts were audited in January and our Annual Meeting was held in February 2025.

PERSONNEL - After so many years of taking responsibility for the magazine accounts and deliveries, it was no surprise when Kate decided to resign. We are all very grateful for her hard work and Alan's. We wish them both a long and happy life without the fear of more 'interesting' interactions with HSBC! Lesley has also retired after many years as a local deliverer and as Secretary during Pat's term in the editor's chair. We are really grateful to Deryck and Maggie Lindsey for taking up the delivery job, carried out with cheerful goodwill. John and Eileen stand in at holiday times.

DELIVERERS - We very much appreciate the work of the deliverers, all 32 of them, some of whom have been treading the highways and lanes for years, and others who volunteered in the last few months. It is still a wonder to me how easy it is to find replacement deliverers when someone needs to retire. Grateful too to Priyank and colleagues in the shop who accommodate 20 magazines in their retail space. I am truly grateful for the goodwill and enthusi-

asm of the people of West Felton.

Dot and Kathy Bliss (and sometimes David) are still doing a sterling job dealing with the heavy boxes of magazines, reducing them to organised bundles for rapid distribution around the village and nearby hamlets. At the last count we are covering 765 households! And any extras go to people in Whittington, Ruyton, and Oswestry who are very pleased to get a free, good read. This of course, widens the scope for our advertisers as well.

PRINTING - Our long-time printing firm increased their price twice in 2024, leaving us in deficit overall. We regularly sought quotes from local printers and this year we found a Shrewsbury firm that is able to meet our requirements, ie. a lower price and a shorter turnaround. This will be beneficial to the community as the various organisations holding meetings through the month are often under pressure to meet the 10th of the month deadline. A trial order of the March issue was deemed satisfactory, with many noticing the improved quality, of printing, paper and general presentation. The turnaround was also satisfactory, so we have committed to the Shrewsbury firm going forward.

ADVERTISING - In 2024 we lost a number of advertisers and worked hard to replace them but still failed to cover the cost of printing. We didn't increase the advertising charges in 2024, that was a mistake. This year we increased just enough to cover outgoings, in the

(Continued on page 43)



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What3words - ARTS.RUINS.BURST

(Continued from page 15)

- Catching more pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals who are missed by the system, by leveraging the benefits system when people apply for other benefits.
- Casework this month has again been focused on planning and the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in particular. I have asked a Sound Engineer we use at work to cast his eye over the Noise Impact Assessment.
- I have been in touch with officers at Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Council about the Taxi Ranks in Oswestry.
- Other issues tackled have been the Queens Head junction with National Highways; the need for a blind spot mirror at the Heath Houses junction on Rednal straight; the non-functioning Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on the A5 at Queens Head; and
- chasing officers for various site meetings across both parishes.●



West Felton Women's Institute

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Every year WFWI have a meeting outdoors in the summer. This time the June meeting involves mini golf and a leisurely visit to the 19th hole! We expect to hear all about it next month. In the meantime you can meet the members at the Carnival serving tea and cake - lots of lovely cake!



Check out our numerous 5★ reviews on Facebook!!

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Water, water

The copy for the magazine has to be submitted a month or more in advance, hence the May heat wave had not arrived when the June article was written. The high temperatures and cloudless skies necessitated a lot of watering. We have a network of hose-pipes to cover the garden and one upgrade this year was to install multiway taps to lessen the amount of connection changing. Hose fittings from the major manufacturers are ridiculously expensive but I discovered a range of much cheaper but still high quality alternatives made by the St Helens House and Garden company. I bought them from CPC.

Actually, the most difficult part of watering was not the garden but seeds and seedlings. I put trays of seeds into polyethylene bags to retain moisture while germination takes place, but this year many had to be moved from their usual place to the shade to stop overheating. Then, it was something of a battle to keep the resulting seedlings moist in the much higher than usual temperatures because they must have light. Watering at least twice a day was the norm and we did lose a few. The weather did of course eventually break and at the end of May the rain came in a quantity to make up for the drought. I would prefer less all or nothing.

Every year I remind you that July is a

good time to make an assessment of the garden so that changes can be planned. In advance of our assessment towards the end of the month, I can be sure to predict that there will be a lot of cutting back and/or removal of shrubs to be noted. This is inevitable in a mature garden and, in our case, will be amplified by failure to do as much as we should have done in previous years. It is an old story, the plants grow steadily but you don't notice until they have got much too big, and then it becomes a major job to get them back in order. If the list of major jobs gets too long you run out of time before it is completed.

Before we get to the assessment there are the routine jobs. My list for July has perhaps shortened a little from the previous months but not a lot. There are kale and cabbage plants to be moved to the vegetable plot and also lettuce plants. The second batch of cucumbers need potting on and seedlings such as chard and beetroot thinned. Mesh tunnels will have to be put over carrots and leeks to prevent insect attack, and I will be watching brassicas for any sign of caterpillars when the sprayer will be put into action. Summer pruning will be done this month on shrubs such as cytissus and genista, and that includes any topiary and hedges. Add to that the usual feeding, weeding and watering and you will not be short of a job. ●

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



PC Mark
Wright
07977 957689



PCSO Stuart
Carroll
07970 544372



PCSO Kurt
Mabe
07870 219669



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,

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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.

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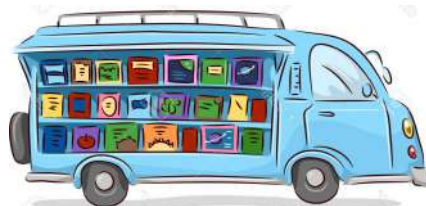
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West Felton C.E. Primary school PE AND SCHOOL SPORT



Sporting achievements and updates

We have come to the end of another busy school year and enjoyed many sporting highlights.

This year we have provided many after school clubs- football, dance, dodgeball, high 5, cricket, rounders which have often led to local inter-school tournaments. We also provided a golf club (on the children's request) and have taken part in a huge range of sports tournaments and festivals offering opportunities for all children, no matter their ability or gender.

We have had some marvellous sports coaches in to teach us cycling, cricket and swimming as well as Miss Monk from STITC, who has enjoyed being involved in all our sporting projects.

We enjoyed a whole school cricket day, celebrated Schools' football week and National Sports week. Beech class enjoyed a sporty well being day, Oak class took part in a Superstars circuit challenge and we all enjoyed getting outdoors and getting active in Forest school (especially tree climbing!)

Our y5/6 play leaders delivered play sessions at lunchtimes and completed their playground stars award. They demonstrated super leadership skills, organisation and helped us all stay active. Well done!



We are extremely proud of our pupils and staff for their dedication and commitment to all aspects of P.E. and school sport.



INTRODUCING

Friends of West Felton CE School and Nursery PTA

Rooted in Community, Growing with Purpose

We are a friendly bunch of parents, teachers, carers and community members working together to support West Felton CE Primary School and Nursery through fundraising, fun events and a whole lot of teamwork.

What do we actually do?

Our main mission is to raise money that directly benefits the children at our school. From funding new play equipment, to providing learning resources, improving the learning environment and supporting special projects and events. We are all about giving back and plan to add a little more sunshine by providing lots of fun activities and sessions for the children to enjoy - we're here to make school life that bit brighter.

We are not all spreadsheets and cake sales! We also bring people together. Some of our upcoming events include:



Sports day fun - throw a sponge at your teacher,



Frozen Fridays - selling ice pops after school,



and our end of school year 'Experience raffle' - the chance to win amazing days out to enjoy during the holidays,

We are all about creating joyful memories for the kids and helping our community feel more connected.

Meet the Team

At the heart of our thriving PTA is a group of dedicated committee members, each helping the organisation grow in their own way:

Chair:

Patricia – leading with positivity, efficiency and vision, she keeps our ideas well-rooted and our plans blooming.

Secretary:

Alicia – gently pruning our plans and maintaining the flow of all things admin.



BROWNHILL HOUSE GARDEN

by APPOINTMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS

until 13th July

Admission £5 - Children free - No dogs.
All proceeds to charities supported by the
National Gardens Charity Scheme.
<https://ngs.org.uk/>

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SY4 1LR. Phone: 01939 261 121

Email: brownhill@eleventowns.co.uk



The Brownhill House June Open Garden events, as featured in the Shropshire Star and accompanying video, were a tremendous success with 150 visitors one day, and more than 100 another day.

Yoland and Roger have reached their goal

£60,000 raised for their NGA charities!

including **Macmillan Cancer Support | Marie Curie | Hospice UK**

Horatio's Garden | Carers Trust | Maggie's

Army Benevolent Trust | Parkinsons UK

Country Trust and others.

Forty-one years of open days, how many cups of tea and cake must that be? Yoland baking muffins by the hundred as well as everything else that that a garden open day entails - amazing dedication to charity and to gardening and those who love gardening - they even had a group of Dutch garden enthusiasts over in June.

There is still opportunity to visit by appointment until 13th July.

The two-acre garden is famous for its average 45 degree slope down to the river Perry and about 700 steps!

Yoland and Roger assure visitors they can enjoy much of the garden and the wonderful views without tackling all the steps.

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

The National Garden Scheme doesn't just open beautiful gardens for charity – they are passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens too. They support charities doing amazing work in gardens and grant bursaries to help community gardening projects. Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors, over £74 million has been donated to nursing and health charities. In 2024 the annual donation was over £3.5 million.

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Co-Secretary:

Rachel – our note-taking nurturer, keeping every budding idea safely planted in the minutes.

Treasurer:

Sophie – keeping our financial garden in tip top shape, and helping every fundraising effort bear fruit.

Co-Treasurer:

Laura – helping turn little acorns of fundraising into mighty oaks, one well-looked-after penny at a time.

Communications Officer:

Taryn – bright, cheerful and always reaching out, planting seeds of information and keeping our community connected and growing.

School Representative -

Helen - our guiding gardener, gently overseeing the plot and helping our PTA come into its own.

Alongside the core committee, we are supported by a brilliant bunch of PTA members, many thanks to:

Selina, Kathleen, Tessa, Lisa, Joanne, Casha, Rebecca, Gillian, Charlotte, Grace, Jo and Rhiannon - who all bring their own sunshine, time, and talents to help our shared vision flourish.

How can you get involved?

Whether you've got five minutes or five hours, we'd love your help. You don't need to join a committee - unless you want to! You could donate a prize, help run a stall, or lend a hand at an event. Got a fun idea? Come and share it with us!

Our updates go out via our Facebook group, school newsletters, and coming soon to the school website.

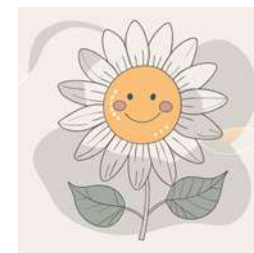
Being part of the PTA isn't just about raising funds – it's about raising smiles and supporting our children together. Let's keep West Felton CE School and Nursery growing strong – *Rooted in community, growing with purpose.*

Find us on Facebook:

Friends of West Felton CE School and Nursery PTA.



**Or come say hello at the school gates –
 we're always happy to chat!**







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(Continued from page 33 - Assisted dying

to look after people whose life has no future.

There may be two groups of people for which assisted dying may be considered. The first includes those people with terminal disease. How long terminal means is not easy to measure. It is not possible to calculate how much they suffer – they may be in a land of their own – but remorseless pain requires relief. Such unfortunate people often have their pain abbreviated by medical means which at the same time shortens their lives.

Possibly the group that causes the greatest anguish includes those people whose condition, be it inherited, acquired or following trauma, can be kept alive, often at some cost. This group would give the Bishop of London the greatest disquiet. They may be vulnerable and often be the subject of abuse through frustration rather than wilful cruelty. Such people may be disabled in body but not in mind. Examples include Stephen Hawking, the renowned physicist. His mind was active and capable of original thought for many years while his body was kept going by those devoted to him. In earlier times the introduction of the iron lung to keep polio patients alive was a medical step forward. However this meant lying a metal box with only your head outside. The ability to do anything was minimal. It might be thought that de-

pression and a desire to end one's life would be considerable, but such data as are available do not suggest this was a problem. Fortunately many patients were in the iron lung for a relatively short time.

The vulnerability to which this second group is exposed may not be due to pressure from relatives or carers but from society. Actions of government to save or raise money may perversely put people at risk. Although the Bishop of London objects to discussion of costs, this is already in place with governments seeking to restrict the costs of medicines by putting a value on a quality adjusted life year. A recent sad story related to a farmer who took his own life to avoid saddling his son with death duties.

Ultimately a government is dependent on what the voters want it to do and if people feel that assisted dying is desirable or that taxation for welfare is getting too much, the effect will be felt at the ballot box. ●

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So don't hesitate, contact us today to schedule your free home valuation and get the information you need to make informed decisions about your home and investment. Kind regards,

Daniel & team
01691 674494



The Don,
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SY11 1QA

daniel@danieljamesresidential.com



COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

Come and meet
the neighbours.

Thursday, 3rd July

10-12noon in the village hall.

£1.50 entry includes tea/coffee biscuits.

Bacon baps £1 extra.



West Felton Walking Group

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

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

Walk leaders:-

Mike Bossen 01691 610623

Hilary Iles 01691 610707

**John & Eileen Hanmer
01691 610629**

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.





It's only a few days until this year's Carnival. We're looking forward to seeing you on the day.

2025 Carnival King & Queen are Gabriel Knowles and Lily Morris



- * The procession starts at 1pm.
- * Please remember no dogs permitted on the field.
- * **It is £2 entry. Children are free.**
- * **Please bring cash as there are no facilities on the field for card transactions.**



Entertainment this year includes singer, Stephen Lockhart, Magician Jack Dent, OsRocks choir, the ever-popular Porthywaen Band, a circus workshop, funfair, as well as Donkeys and Alpacas! Of course, the bar will be open and there's a selection of food stalls including burgers, chips and, of course, ice cream.

★ **CARNIVAL 2025 JUDGES: West Felton Cllr Alastair and Min Forbes,**
★ **Malcolm Lord, (Mr Bungle) & Michaela Turner, Attfield Theatre**
★



We welcome any help on the day! We'll be setting up the field in the morning, and clearing down afterwards, so please come along if you can lend a hand.

ASSISTED DYING BILL has divided the Church of England

Michael Davie

It is not long since the subject of assisted dying appeared in the magazine. Such has been the interest and the movement of opinion in parliament against it and people discussing it that a further article with similar and new points may be in order.

Assisted dying has split the Church of England. Most of the church hierarchy have positioned themselves against it with some notable exceptions. Undoubtedly the MP who introduced the bill was courageous. She feels that now is the time for serious debate. Assisted dying is legal in many countries and does not appear to have been abused. Relatively few people have taken advantage of the change in the law.

Early theologians taught that God united himself to us in suffering and death and that we can imitate Christ in suffering and death. A Regius Professor of Divinity wrote that "Christ passed through every stage of life, becoming like us in each, so that we imitate him in whichever stage, including suffering and death, we find ourselves". Does this mean that we have to suffer in order to follow the way of Christ? Another argument put forward is that of the sanctity of life – namely that life is the responsibility

of God alone, even if suffering is beyond comprehension. Many people feel that these positions are not consistent with a compassionate Lord, and that amelioration of suffering is reasonable. The most notable churchman who supports assisted dying is Lord Carey, an erstwhile Archbishop of Canterbury. He believes that there is no fundamental theological reason for opposition. In the face of such varied views it is easy to understand how divisions arise.

Those against change also include the palliative care community, and agencies caring for the disabled. They fear that patients may be coerced for financial or social reasons. Some doctors have reservations about being involved in assisted dying. In the past a person suffering because medical science had nothing to offer may have had their life ended with dignity at home.

The Bishop of London has objected to the bill mentioning the economic value of assisted dying. The costs for domiciliary care, palliative care, pensions and other state benefits all form part of the bill. Undoubtedly some patients do feel that they are a burden on their families and on society. This is often enhanced by the reaction of their families or indeed people caring for them. It is often underappreciated how stressful it is for carers

(Continued on page 35)

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Some residents received this letter from our Member of Parliament.
 It is assumed she will be delighted to hear from everyone in West Felton.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
 LONDON SW1A 0AA

27th May 2025

Dear Resident,

I am writing to ask your views about access to services in your area - specifically regarding Post Office services in light of recent changes.

If you are not already aware, the Post Office has announced that it will no longer be offering outreach services in West Felton from 17th June onwards. West Felton is one of several areas in North Shropshire losing its outreach services. This is because the staff member who currently runs the services is resigning and it is Post Office policy not to restore a service after an unplanned closure, unless it is necessary to meet access criteria.

I am disappointed by this news as I believe that services in rural areas need to be improved, not reduced. I have already met Post Office representatives to make this clear, however, it would strengthen my case to be able to share first-hand testimonies from constituents like you.

I would appreciate hearing your views about the impact of these changes and the availability of other services in your area. Please share your views by writing to me at: Helen Morgan MP, 1st Floor Offices, Maypole Court, Wem, SY4 5AA or emailing helen.morgan.mp@parliament.uk.

I also encourage you to share your views regarding Post Office services directly with the Post Office by emailing comments@postoffice.co.uk or writing to: FREEPOST Your Comments (that is the full postal address).

If there are any separate matters that I might be able to assist you with then please do get in touch and I will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Morgan

Helen Morgan, MP for North Shropshire

T: 01939 809387 E: helen.morgan.mp@parliament.uk
 A: First Floor Offices, Maypole Court, Wem, SY4 5AA



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**Remembering, at the May 2025
Coffee Morning in
West Felton Village Hall**

Mrs Jean Rolfe of Stonehouse Drive gave us her most vivid memory of VE day 1945:

I was there for the first VE and VJ parties, but what I remember most was being woken by Mother saying, "Wake up! The war is over!" She then put me in my dressing gown and we went around the corner to the main road which was Longden Coleham.

There, in the middle of the road, was a large bonfire. There were crowds of people, all singing and dancing, all very happy. But I was cross! All the other children were dressed and I was still in my dressing gown, Oh dear!

One evening in August 1945, I was kept up late and not told why? Mother and I walked to the station and... there on the platform was my Daddy home from Italy.

Below: Celebrating in style: Meryl, Sylvia, Gron and Jeff.





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Women in Utilities Awards 2025

Nominated for APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Lauren Homewood

SP Energy Networks

The shortlist has been announced for this year's Women in Utilities Awards, run by Utility Week in partnership with the Women's Utilities Network (WUN).



Lauren, daughter of Sandy and Kevin of St Michael's Court, West Felton, has been nominated as a finalist for the **Apprentice of the Year Award**. This huge achievement is

no surprise, Lauren's work ethic and talents are well appreciated by those who know her. It is great that Scottish Power has put her forward, recognising a young woman already excelling in her chosen career. There was a bumper crop of entries to the competition this year, whittled down to an elite shortlist of finalists by an expert panel of judges.

This pioneering awards scheme pays tribute to the remarkable achievements of women in the utilities sector and the organisations and individuals that champion them, shining a spotlight on the women making waves in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

In total, 64 organisations from across the energy and water sectors are represented; individuals, teams and notable initiatives that have made the final cut.

Commenting on the quality of the entries, Karen Anderson, programme development manager at WUN said: "I want to thank everyone who took the time to enter nominations for the Women in Utilities Awards 2025. The standard of nominations was exceptional, showcasing the depth of talent, innovation and impact women, allies and organisations are having right across the sector. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the judging panel for giving their time, care, and insight during the process."

Karen offered her congratulations to all finalists and added: "We're proud to celebrate your achievements and look forward to recognising your contributions at the awards ceremony."

Winners will be announced on 27 June in the Royal Lancaster, London.