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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	01691 610322
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: Gillian Sturgess	01691 611811

Year 31

NOVEMBER 2024

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

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Where can we see

Fr Christmas in

West Felton this year??

See inside!



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
Pilates Class	Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book on line GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904456368
Tai Chi	Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall
Badminton	Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall
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 see below*	8pm Meeting, THE PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

26 Oct	10am -1pm ANTIQUES VALUATIONS TONG'S AUCTION HOUSE,	
3 Nov	6:30pm All Souls Day Remembering Service, St Michaels	
7 Nov	10am-12 COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	13
8 Nov	7:30pm POPPY CONCERT, Village Hall	front
10 Nov	10am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Service St Michael's Church	
10 Nov	10:30am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Service, Pradoc Church	
11 Nov	11am SERVICE AT WAR MEMORIAL	
29 Nov	6 pm CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON, Alma Close	28
30 Nov	1pm-3pm CHRISTMAS FAIR, Village Hall	17
2 Dec *	4pm ROYAL BRITISH LEGION meeting Punch Bowl	CHANGED TIME
11 Dec	7pm CHRISTMAS BINGO, Village Hall	33
7 Mar25	5:30pm Jack Dent, CHILDREN'S MAGIC SHOW.	
Sunday 1st Dec 4pm	SEVERN HOSPICE, BICTON HEATH annual Lights of Love memorial event, a beautiful evening where we light candles, illuminate our Christmas tree, and enjoy carols, readings, and more. This free event is open to all, offering an opportunity to remember loved ones during the holiday season.	

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Round and About West Felton

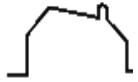
Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion
in next issue
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

**Last day for submission of copy and
Deadline for content changes 10th NOVEMBER 2024**

Editor: Colleen Hughes

**Advertising Rates
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Tel 01691 610300	Quarter page	£50
colleenhughes748@btinternet.com	Half page	£75
	Full page	£125



WEST FELTON STORES

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Services in West Felton Parish:

St Michael's, West Felton
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Sun 3rd Nov 6:30pm
Special Remembering
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St Chad's, Haughton
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SERVICE ACCORDING TO THE
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Dr Michael Davie 01691 610 612

- 10 Nov 10am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Service,
St Michael's Church, West Felton
- 10 Nov. 10:30am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Service,
Pradoe Church
- 11 Nov. 11am SERVICE AT WAR MEMORIAL



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Sun 3 November

Sun 10 Nov (Remembrance Sunday)

Sun 1 December

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10am Wed 25 Dec Christmas Day

Sun 5 Jan 2025 (Plough Sunday)



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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 Comm)	
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 Comm).	
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

12 November 2024	11 March 2025
10 December 2024	8 April 2025
14 January 2025	13 May 2025
11 February 2025	

WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

West Felton Primary School I would like to congratulate our local Primary School on receiving a prestigious honour in recognition for welcoming the world into its class-room. It has been awarded the Foundation Level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award. Headteacher Helen Hughes explained that it was because of the various projects pupils carried out, such as Community Champions and investing in a scheme from Save the Children a charity founded by Eglantyne Jubb who lived in nearby Ellesmere. Well done to all the children and the school for tackling such an important issue.

Grant Applications The Parish Council offers funding to any Community group involved in specific community activities. If your group wishes to make an application for 2025/26 funding please note the closing date for grant applications is **31 December 2024**. You can find details under the heading Parish Grants on the opening page of the website <https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk> with a link to the application form. Please use this method to make any applications.

(Continued on page 7)

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Oswestry Police Station.

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Email: oswestrys.snt@westmercia/pnn.police.uk Twitter: @OsCops

Local Police Community Support Officer: PCSO Stuart Carroll 07970 544372.



West Felton Walking Group

Walk leaders:-

Mike Bossen 01691 610623

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

Hilary Iles 01691 610707

**EXCEPT on the first Monday of the
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(Continued from page 5) Parish Council

Bins Our Grounds Maintenance Officer has once again reported that people are not using the bins provided at the playing field and that lots of litter is lying about which causes problems when cutting the grass. Could I ask you kindly to either place any litter in the bins provided or take it home. Thank you.

Football Pitch This matter was considered at a recent meeting. In principle the Council was positive with the idea. At the last meeting we resolved to secure some control over the adjacent land where it was proposed to relocate some of the play equipment. The Clerk contacted Balfours about this matter stating:

"The Parish Council has been approached by West Felton Football Club with a request to have a full size football pitch located on the playing field. The project would involve moving a substantial amount of the current play equipment onto the adjacent land (that which should have been allocated as 'public open space'). I have been asked to approach you to see whether it may be possible for the Parish Council to have some sort of control over that land to allow that to happen." We received a reply as follows:

"Michael Watney has now left Balfours, and I have taken over. It is my understanding that the Parish Council have already been offered the area in question, but decided to decline it; has something changed?"

"An approach was made a number of years ago. Circumstances have changed since, and the Council may be open to this."

Road from Queens Head to Lower Hordley We have received a number of comments on the state of the road between Queens Head and Hordley. The Clerk has sent a detailed letter to Shropshire Council's Traffic Management Team – a copy of which is on the Parish website but I note the following sections.

"The Parish Council and residents are increasingly concerned about the terrible state of the road from Queens Head to Rednal and then on to Lower Hordley. This is extremely hazardous and becoming more so.

Traffic, cars, articulated trucks, tractors, motor bikes all try to navigate the undulating and potholed surface by travelling down the centre or opposite carriageway. The poorly maintained roads are not fit for purpose for this sort of traffic, putting the health, safety and wellbeing of the local community and road users at risk. Please could this stretch of road be looked at urgently by an engineer with a view to carrying out the necessary work?"

Community Speed Watch At the Parish meeting in May we were asked to pursue this matter. We sought volunteers to operate such a system and needed a minimum at least of six residents. Despite asking for volunteers, unfortunately to date we only have four. Council have decided that with such a small number it is not viable to run such a scheme.

Streetlight electricity supplier In May the Clerk was informed that Scottish Power Retail Business had announced their exit from the market. This meant the termination of their billing systems in early 2025. We were asked to move our unmetered

(Continued on page 9)



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Get in touch:

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(Continued from page 7)

supply to another Electricity supplier. We agreed at the May meeting to proceed with Shropshire Council's Joint Energy Scheme. They are currently waiting for this year's rates from the supplier which they anticipate receiving soon. An inventory needs completing in order to obtain a quote. Unfortunately, there is no response from the Council.

Traffic Management Programme (CIL) We have previously reported on our traffic management proposals requiring support from Shropshire Council without success. At the last meeting the Council asked me to write to the Chief Executive of Shropshire Council, Andrew Begley, with copies to the Leader of Council Lezley Picton, the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Champion, and the local MP Helen Morgan. The letter, a copy of which is on the website, outlined the severe difficulties which the Parish Council has faced in obtaining responses to letters for site visits - the first of which was sent by our Clerk first on **17 July 2023** to Mark Wootton. A reply was received from the Chief Executive within four hours which stated: "Thank you for your email and for bringing these matters to my attention. I will request that Mark Barrow, Executive Director, Place, looks at this and ensures you are updated. May I take this opportunity to apologise." As yet I have not been updated!!

It was also sent to the Police Commissioner who have provided a grant to be spent in this financial year. He has responded saying that "I want to reassure you that the money has been awarded to assist your purchase of Vehicle Activated Signs and therefore, there's no immediate pressure to ensure they are installed. However, please be mindful that if your quote expires and the cost increases, the PCC's office is unable to provide any further funding."

Community Engagement As reported in June, the Chair and Deputy put a proposal for discussion to the Council that we should create a Community Engagement Plan. There was widespread discussion and the Council, in principle, accepted the concept. A more detailed paper will be presented to the November Council meeting. If you have any comments or suggestions about how you think the Parish Council can communicate more effectively with you please let me know through the Clerk.

Punch Bowl The PC has made an application to make the Punch Bowl an Asset of Community Value (ACV). At our meeting our link Councillor Steve Charmley reported that he had been contacted by Shropshire Council for further information and stated he had fully supported the proposal. He felt there was backing for the idea and that their might be a positive response.

He also reported that so far £3.2 million had been raised through the Garden Waste bin charge. You will have received the email that the start date of the programme has been deferred until November as the stickers to be placed on our bins had come off in the first fall of rain! The Council has had to source a new supplier. One hopes that the cost of these unusable stickers is not taken out of that £3.2 million.

Parish Councils Meeting As stated in my last report the Clerk and I attended a meeting of Parish Councils in the Oswestry area at the Guild Hall Council Chamber

(Continued on page 11)

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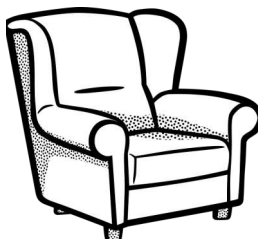


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(Continued from page 9)

which was attended by the local MP Helen Morgan. The purpose of the meeting was:

- Receive an update on the financial situation of Shropshire Council for their budget 2024-25-26;
- Receive a precis of the result of the Parish Council survey to provide a foundation for understanding the general appetite of Town and Parish Councils to undertake either the direct delivery of, or financial support for local services;
- Assess the general views of Parishes in the North in respect of delivery or support for particular services.
- Assess the potential for co-operation between parishes to better deliver local services were that to be a favoured option, and how that may be managed.

In his letter to the Leader of the Council Lezley Picton, Cllr Peter Richardson, Chair of Oswestry Rural Parish Council stated that; *"From our perspective the meeting was highly successful in achieving some of the above : c) to d) but a) and b) could not be completed due to a complete lack of information from your council even when it was requested."* He added *"on balance there is little appetite to take on additional services from Shropshire, and that even if there was, the legality of Parishes taking on responsibility for them, coupled with uncertainty over the views of the various external Auditors on the spend, would provoke caution before any agreement could be entered into."* At another meeting, one of your officers attended (Peter Banford) stated that *"Shropshire Council had no appetite to devolve services and would prefer Parishes to increase their precept and transfer that money to Shropshire Council."* The percentage expected was 10%-15%."

I was left with the impression that the 'right' hand does not know what the 'left' is doing!!!

Interestingly we received an email just before our Oct Council meeting stating: *"Earlier this year, we contacted you as part of our engagement with all town and parish councils, to open a discussion about different ways to support services in your local area... However it was agreed that this approach, while simple, would not meet the range and complexity of local priorities and preferences. Therefore, with thanks and appreciation to all who have been contacted and engaged with us to date, we have concluded that without the realistic potential to apply a uniform approach across the timescales we must work to make it too impractical to achieve significant benefits. Therefore, we will suspend our current interactions with local councils on this subject."*

John Thornhill, Chair, 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>

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The Holdovers

Cert: 15 - 133 mins



Wed 20th Nov - 7.30 pm

Drinks and snacks at the bar. Film starts at 7:30pm with an interval for any further drinks and snacks.

A curmudgeonly instructor at a New England prep school remains on campus during Christmas break to babysit a handful of students with nowhere to go. He soon forms an unlikely bond with a brainy but damaged troublemaker, and with the school's head cook, a woman who had just lost a son in the Vietnam War. Starring Paul Giamatti, Tate Donovan and Carrie Preston.

Thelma

Cert: 12a - 98 mins



Wed 18th Dec - 7.30 pm

Drinks and snacks at the bar. Film starts at 7:30pm with an interval for any further drinks and snacks. When 93-year-old Thelma Post gets duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her.

Starring June Squibb, Fred Hechinger and Parker Posey.

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What's on this month?

NOVEMBER

12 to 3pm **SUNDAY LUNCH** 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th.

Booking is advised. For all reservations or tickets call
Sally 07543 040618

- Friday 1st - Comedy Evening - Ticket Only
- Weds 6th - Ladies Darts - 7pm Everyone Welcome
- Thurs 14th - Mobile Pizza Box arrives 5pm, Authentic freshly made pizzas cooked in an Italian wood fired oven - *highly recommended.*
- Sat 16th - Live Music - Seanie 8-10pm
- Weds 20th - Ladies Darts - 7pm
- Fri 22nd - Bingo - Eyes Down @ 7pm
- Sat 23rd - Wreath Making Workshop - Ticket Only
- Thurs 28th - Mobile Pizza Box 5pm

Fri 29th - Xmas Tree Lights Switch-On

**Fish & Chip Van present
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**COMMUNITY
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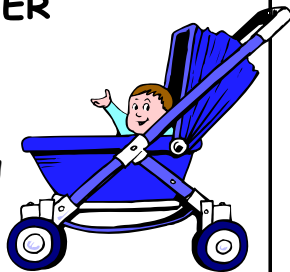
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Oswestry Film Society (OFS)

Keeping cinema alive in Oswestry.

Films showing October to December

October sees start the of showing four films a month. Oswestry Film Society are delighted to welcome on board our additional film programmers. We will still bring you the best films we can, but it means the range,

topics, themes and genres can grow. Forthcoming screenings are listed below. And of course, the best way to watch a film is on the big screen,

in company, and in a welcoming environment - and that's what the Oswestry Film Society will always provide in the absence of a full-time cinema in town.

Our new schedule up to Christmas:

- Wed Oct 23 - The Fall Guy (12A)
- Wed Nov 6 - Jackie (15)
- Wed Nov 13 - Wilding (PG) + post-film Q&A
- Wed Nov 20 - Typist Artist Pirate King (12A)
- Wed Nov 27 - Outrun (15)
- Wed Dec 4 - A Royal Night Out (12A)
- Wed Dec 11 - Thelma (12A)
- Wed Dec 18 - Finding Your Feet (12A)

The background and trailers to all these films can be found on the OFS website.

Oswestry Film Society show their films at the **Hermon Arts Centre**. <https://www.oswestryfilmsociety.com/showing-now>. All films 7.30pm.

The Hermon is situated on Chapel Street, close to the Bailey Head market and the main market car park with its entrance off Chapel Street, just a few steps away from our venue. **Postcode-Satnav SY11 1LF. The venue is fully accessible, and has a licensed cafe-bar.** Tickets £8 on the door, or via www.oswestryfilmsociety.com/buy-tickets Email: oswestryfilmsoc@gmail.com

AND PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS:

December 9-14 TREASURE ISLAND by Robert Louis Stevenson. The Attfield Theatre, The Guildhall, Bailey Head, **SY11 1PZ**. www.attfieldtheatre.co.uk

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SHROPSHIRE FEDERATION WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - Remembrance display in Shrewsbury Abbey

Gilli Booton, Federation Trustee (pictured) says 'Thank you very much!'

She is overwhelmed by the number of handmade poppies sent in. They will be added to the existing collection and used to create an even more spectacular display this year.

**The poppies will be on
display in Shrewsbury Abbey
from**

28 October - 15 November 2024.

**Please try and visit - photos do
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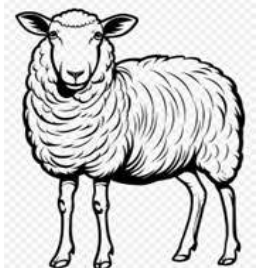
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Plant Security

Theft of plant and machinery from construction sites, the plant hire industry and farms has been increasing. Machinery has been left on construction sites unsecured and vulnerable during the disruption to the industry over the past year. Whilst all machinery is at risk, mini diggers are a major target for thieves and organised gangs in the UK.

Read our advice below on a few simple precautions to deter thieves – remember the best security is a layered approach with the aim of making your property a less attractive target to thieves.



Advice Tips for Plant Machinery Security



Remove Keys

When not in use, all vehicles and plant machinery should have their ignition keys removed and where possible, their immobilisers and/or anti-theft devices activated.



Secure Over Night

When left overnight, machinery should be secured in a compound or container if possible. As an extra measure block the container with large concrete blocks to prevent easy access.



Use Chains

Larger items that cannot be stored in a secure container should be chained to immovable objects like a large concrete block or where possible consider interlocking the machinery together.

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Abridged from a press release received too
late for publication in September magazine.



**Distinguished West Midlands airfields
Hixon, Rednal and Wheaton Aston to be
honoured with Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust memorials.**

As a result of long planning and co-operation between the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT) - the world's first national airfield charity - and various local elements, and following very successful similar unveilings in the same general area during April 2024, three further memorials will be unveiled during Wednesday to Friday 25-27 September 2024 to commemorate Hixon, Rednal and Wheaton Aston Airfields.

Rednal in Shropshire became an extremely important advanced training airfield during World War Two involving fighters. Once opened in April 1942, No 61 Operational Training Unit (OTU) quickly moved from famous Greater London airfield Heston to primarily operate Supermarine Spitfires, though US-built North American Mustangs also began to appear in strength towards the end of World War Two; Montford Bridge acted as a satellite airfield. After over three years of intensive use, the OTU moved to Keevil in Wiltshire during June 1945, after which Rednal finally closed in April 1946. This airfield is still particularly tangible today, being used in diverse industrial and leisure activity roles, with a considerable amount of its original infrastructure continuing to be readily evident.

All three memorials are of the main full-sized standardised design widely utilised by ABCT <https://www.abct.org.uk/airfield-markers/marker-programme/>. The charity's objective is to eventually commemorate each known major airfield in the United Kingdom with one of two forms of standardised granite memorial. Well over 200 have already been unveiled - following huge national public demand for them - to clearly major effect, with hundreds more being planned.

Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT). For more information, contact: Telephone: 0141 483 8798 / 0141 483 8799 (if numbers not answered, leave an answer message and/or send an email

Kenneth P Bannerman, Director General.

Office: 0141 483 8798 / 8799

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WEST FELTON WI

WFWI met in September, Gillian, in the chair, welcomed Heather Dulson, WI adviser. Various administrative matters were dealt with including a reminder of the Annual Meeting where

new officers will be elected. Heather emphasised the importance of these elections and encouraged all members to take part in the running of the group to ensure its sustainability into the future, as had generations of West Felton women for the past 103 years.

PROJECTOR: A big thankyou to the Parish Council from all WFWI. The Parish council awarded a grant of £250 contributing 50% to the purchase of a projector. Essential equipment which is very much appreciated.

FUNDRAISING - the importance was emphasised of volunteering to support events for funding extras like outdoor meetings.

CARNIVAL - Congratulations to Rhian and the Quality ladies who won second prize for their float. Prize money £30 added to funds. Proceeds of the refreshments tents is a major fundraiser for WFWI each year.

OSWESTRY SHOW - Thanks to stewards, Cathy and Rhian for managing entries. Jo Lawson won 2nd place for a crochet accessory. Eileen won 2nd and Gillian 3rd place for their Swiss rolls.

SALOPIAN SLEEPOVER - Nine West Felton Members attended and helped organize. Over 100 ladies participated at Beaudesert in Staffordshire. Members were encouraged to join the 2025 adventure, still to be decided.

CHRISTMAS FAIR - 30th Nov, from 1-3pm. Donations for tombola, raffle, etc. needed. *Santa has chosen to visit the Punch Bowl on the 29th, Christmas Tree Switch-on, the evening before the Fair. Sally G is preparing a big welcome for all.*

The guest speaker was Maggie Love. Shrewsbury director, producer and dance historian, Maggie talked about 'The History of Dance'. Her career has included West End musicals, films, top acting schools and a stint in America. For 17 years Maggie was Director of Shropshire Youth Theatre. Partnered with the CO-OP via their Local Community Fund, the award winning Shropshire Youth Theatre (SYT) is a not-for-profit organisation. Providing high quality acting and performance workshops and delivering an annual public production, SYT rehearsals and workshops are led by experienced professionals who volunteer their time. SYT prides itself on being the only youth theatre in the country to be run by an annually elected student committee. <https://shropshireyouththeatre.co.uk/>

The November WFWI meeting is on the 14th and will include the Annual Meeting, the election of new officers and a new committee, followed by a musical entertainment by Clare Harrison, Welsh music teacher and soprano soloist - what a treat to look forward to! ♦

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Rector's Final Ramblings

Rev Suzan Williams

As we launch ourselves into the autumn and the days are getting shorter, the landscape is changing before our very eyes. With more autumnal colours which I love more visible everywhere. I have found myself pondering how we slow down enough to enjoy what's right in front of us and don't get sucked into the trap of wishing away the days, weeks or months away. I wonder what sort of person you are in terms of preparing for things and yes I am going to mention the 'C' word. Christmas is fast approaching whether we like it or not. I have found myself in the dilemma of deciding whether to wait to start Christmas shopping until we've moved at the beginning of November or to start before and I have to be honest in admitting that I've already started buying bits to put away in a place where we will endeavour to remember where they are.

Are you a last-minute person or do you prefer to be organised? It's a difficult one isn't it because sometimes it's good to prepare in advance and other times it's good to give room for the unexpected. So often in Jesus encounters with people he gave room for the unex-

pected, it was on his way between places that he met people where they were and although it was unexpected for them it wasn't for him. On one occasion he went between 30-35 miles out of his way to encounter a woman at a well in the heat of the day and in that one encounter her life was changed forever. Jesus knew things about her that caused people to judge her and reject her. Did Jesus avoid those difficult things? No he named them for what they were and met her where she was in the brokenness of her life and loved and accepted her anyway.

What things can we do to make others feel they belong and are welcome. How can we open our eyes to what is right in front of us?

It might be volunteering at a local group in the community or asking a neighbour round for a coffee. The most precious gift we have to offer others is our time. I remember being struck by an African greeting where one person says to the other 'I am here' and the other responds 'I see you' there's something in being seen, understood and acknowledged.

Every Blessing, Suzan

The Reverend Suzan Williams,

**Rector of the Benefice of Whittington and West Felton with Haughton, and
Dean of rural Oswestry in the Diocese of Lichfield,**

has been appointed Priest in Charge of the Bridgnorth & Morville Parishes Team Ministry, part of the Diocese of Hereford. She will take up her new appointment in November.

She goes with the gratitude of the people of West Felton for her service here and with best wishes for her new life in Bridgnorth.

Annual property review 2024

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The programme is delivered by experienced, friendly digital volunteers based within Shropshire Libraries and local community organisations. Free data and devices are available for those in greatest need.

"I felt left behind and knew I needed to do something to bring myself up to date," said Peter, who has benefitted from the programme. "My digital volunteer was so knowledgeable and patient. His kindness helped me to realise that I knew a lot more than I thought I did. Getting out of the house each week to learn something new gave me a boost and I thoroughly enjoyed my sessions."

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Dark November brings the fog

Children have always liked our garden because it offered lots of unusual things and places to explore. Years ago, it was a magical place for a neighbour's little girl and we had to pretend not to see her as she wandered around. For various reasons, we have had less children visiting in recent times but perhaps we will see more in 2025. It is very important to introduce children to growing things and encouraging them to appreciate and enjoy gardens. We largely failed to instil enthusiasm in our own children but something must have stuck because interest developed as they got older.

As we start to look forward to the next growing season, I reflected on the amount of rain in the last year, which plants suffered and which thrived. There is a widespread view that trees in particular grew especially well. We didn't notice that but we have become aware of areas of the garden that were clearly not getting enough wet in an average year, because plants there were much happier this time round. Hence, there is a resolution to earmark problem areas for supplementary watering at the first signs of drought. However, we can't do anything about the reverse problem of too much wet as poor drainage is not a problem we suffer from. To add to the debate as to whether it was wet or variety that caused our first early potatoes to be a magnet for slugs, the variety was Rocket, mistakenly bought instead of our usual Casablanca. Next to them, rows of Kestrel were perfect with no slug attack—but that does not constitute proof.

November is the last month of autumn and it could be relatively mild or pretend it is winter. This means some uncertainty as to what it will be possible to achieve outside. However, I hope to make a last cutting of the grass at the beginning of the month—I am sure we used to stop mowing much earlier. There will also be some plants that still need to be brought in for the winter, and some hardwood cuttings to take. The only things we cover outside are gunnera and we do that using their own leaves. Then, it will be clearing and cleaning the glasshouse, including my fetish of watering Jeyes fluid to ward off evil. If you grow asparagus, now is the time to cut it down, and it is also a good idea to start clearing leaves from grass. Hopefully, the weather will allow pruning of shrubs and trees to continue, and also for progress to be made on winter redevelopment projects and changes to hard landscaping. The vegetable plots will need clearing as crops finish and many people will follow this with digging in readiness for next year. Those of us who have largely adopted a no-dig routine will be content with removing all weeds and raking level over most of the area. ♦

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News from West Felton CofE Primary School

We were really pleased to be awarded the International School Award, Foundation Level by the British Council last month following a rigorous review of evidence.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

Our school vision is:

Preparing for Life in all its Fullness

And with that in mind, we strive to bring a broad curriculum offer to all of our children so that they see the *whole* world; rich with opportunities for their own future.

The award recognises our curriculum content as well as our whole school and community champion work.

Our Community Champions are 4 pupils from each class, voted in democratically, who plan, organise and execute our charity days for the academic year.

We encourage the champions to think of our community on a local, national and international level.

Our international work this year will be centred on a charity nominated by one of our Y6 pupils. It is called Just One Tree and is part of the Ecosystem Restoration plan by the United Nations. It involves fund raising to plant trees around the world. Further information can be found at:

www.justonetree.life and we'll keep you posted about upcoming events. ♦

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

2024-25



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CHRISTMAS



WEST FELTON VILLAGE HALL

Wednesday 11th December
7 for 7:30 for a prompt start

Raffle prizes gratefully received
by any committee member.

*
* *Thank you!* **CARE IN THE COMMUNITY.** *
* On the 9th September I had an *
* accident whilst walking my neigh- *
* bour's dog. I ended up in the road *
* with a head injury and a broken femur. *
* I am still amazed by the amount of people that *
* came to my aid, namely a retired nurse and a *
* gentleman in a works van who gave his coat *
* for my husband to kneel on at my side. My *
* neighbours on either side of our bungalow, one *
* calling the ambulance and the distraught man *
* whose dog I was walking at the time. *
* Thank you all for your care and support, from *
* someone you did not know or someone you *
* knew in passing. *
* I am now back home having spent two & a half *
* weeks in hospital and have had a partial hip re- *
* placement. So on the mend. *
* **Thank you from my husband, my family** *
* **and myself. Anne Maxwell** *
*
*



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INTERREGNUM

Michael Davie

With the Rector moving to Bridgnorth, the parish of West Felton enters an interregnum. The word dates from earlier times when the Rector was second only to the Lord of the manor in the village hierarchy and enjoyed an extensive income, either in kind or money, paid by the local farmers. This payment, known as tithe, became very unpopular amongst the rural population in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and was eventually abolished in 1936. Partly because of the term interregnum implying some form of overlordship and partly because Latin is no longer taught in schools, the term vacancy has been substituted.

Vacancies can be lengthy affairs for several reasons. Many parishes are now part of a combination of parishes, known as benefices, and if one parish has problems paying its parish share whilst the others are up to date, this causes problems for the whole benefice. The Diocese may then look to including other parishes in the benefice. Increasing numbers of parishes in a Benefice makes the package less attractive to possible priests. Therein lies another problem. There are fewer priests available: the numbers of those be-

ing ordained have been falling for some years. Moreover those that are ordained find working in the south more appealing than working in the north. Whereas in the Oxford Diocese a benefice might attract up to five applicants, a benefice north of that may be lucky to have one applicant. Rural benefices also have difficulty recruiting, possibly because of the distances between the parishes. Add to all this arguments about the sex of the applicant or over whether an applicant should be in favour or against same sex blessings or marriage, and the pool of applicants diminishes further. These differences of opinion not confined only to parishes; several Diocesan Bishop posts are vacant because the appointing body cannot agree about the type of candidate that they wish to appoint. The cynical may also suspect that Dioceses have a vested interest in keeping a parish vacancy going. Dioceses expect the parish share to be paid but will only pay for a priest to take a service. Thus in West Felton's case we might need a priest for, say, 60 services a year at £100 each, whereas the parish share is £19,000/yr. On a more optimistic note a vacancy gives the community the opportunity to discuss what they want from the church or the priest. The Paro-

(Continued on page 27)



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Co. Sergeant Major (WO2) DAVID JONES RIP

FOND MEMORIES from Jim Pearce

Dave Jones - Sailor, Soldier but never a Tinker or Tailor

Dave and I grew up together in the Wheatlands. At that time our mothers would kick us out after breakfast and tell us not to come home until lunchtime. No doubt such behaviour would now have the social workers knocking at the door.

We would walk down the A5 (no bypass in those days) and visit his uncle, ex chauffeur/butler at Pradoc, we knew we would always get cake and pop.

A bit older we joined the Cubs together and later the Scouts. A trip to the Isle of Wight was the highlight. After that Dave joined the Royal Navy and I the Army.

Our next gig together was in the TA. I took over command of A Company Fifth battalion Light Infantry (5LI) and had a wonderful team with Dave as Company Quartermaster Sergeant and Pete Jones as storeman. What they couldn't beg or borrow they would steal, including on one occasion a machine gun. Happy days.

Finally we had a great time in the RBL. Memorably on a battlefield tour to France when Dave hijacked our duty free to give the Mayor a big drink, sadly it was the day of the Mayor's daughter's wedding. Entente cordiale blown away!

It was a real privilege to know Dave, a great man who worshipped his nieces and family and was a real gentleman. He will be missed.



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(Continued from page 25) Antidisestablishment....

chial church Council (PCC) would welcome any comments that people might like to make. The great benefits of the past that the church started, education, alms (welfare) and health, have all been taken over by the state. What gap is left that the church can fill?

The Diocese, as ever, has mission plans outlining what it would like to happen in the community, but is very short on how to achieve these aims. Connections with the school in West Felton are already well established and the church has set up an endowment fund that gives the school about £1500/yr. The school is a controlled school and as such the priest liaises with the school. In a vacancy a PCC member can take their place and arrangements are being made for this. The Diocese also emphasizes community involvement and in this respect there is probably more to do. The church holds a Lent lunch and a Harvest supper annually, both of which are well supported. A fayre in late November in alternate years is also popular. An annual carol service along traditional lines of lessons and carols is held and this year will be on 1st December at 4.00pm. The PCC also decided that a more informal service of carols would be held on 8th December. The PCC were

aware that in the past there used to be 3 carol services in the Christmas period, held by the Methodist Chapel, the United Reform church and the Parish church. All of these had their own distinct atmosphere.

Hopefully the time will come when the parish can appoint a new priest. This will depend greatly on what the community wish to see in a priest as this will determine what is put in the parish profile. At a recent meeting of the PCC, members emphasized the importance of pastoral visiting and priestly visibility. This is a recurring comment in many parishes as priests seem increasingly reluctant to visit. Partly this results from the time factor if one priest is looking after several parishes and partly because of the risk of accusations of sexual harassment. Nevertheless visibility in the community is important and Bishops need to be aware that priestly time spent being visible is more useful than sitting in committees discussing Diocesan mission plans and other bureaucratic measures.

Thus the vacancy has its challenges including keeping the services going and "keeping the show on the road", whilst at the same time giving people the opportunity to voice their opinions about the rôle of the church in the community and what they would like. "



WEST FELTON CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Happy, once again, to provide

- the CHRISTMAS TREE for West Felton,
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- proceeds to go for equipment for our wonderful Primary School.

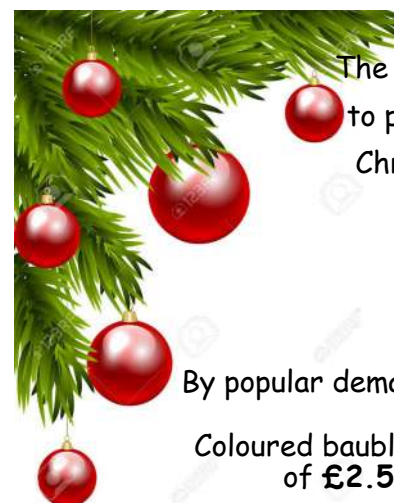
Make it special for your family,

**Order your baubles now,
be ready for the**

big Christmas Tree light up on

29th November 6pm
Order form on page 29.

Eileen Hanmer 610629



CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

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

Christmas Tree switch-on will take place on

Friday 29th November at 6pm

at the entrance to Alma Close.

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

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

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

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

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