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NHS Out of Hours Service	111
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PARISH COUNCIL email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number Oswestry Police Station Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	101 0300 333 3000
PRADOE CHURCH: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	07543 040618
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SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789000 0345 6789020
Shrops Councillor: Cllr David Walker	01743 256863/ M 07484 541576
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: MINISTRY vacant Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
ST. CHAD'S: Chapel Warden: Mrs Ann Hampson	01691 610845
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	01691 610665
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: President: Rhian	07375 997 782

Year 34

JUNE 2026

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

Supporting local business - Supporting the community

Sunday 12th JULY

☺ Time to book
your stall

☺ Time to plan
your float



*Our search for a new priest begins...
Have your say see page 21 and your questionnaire enclosed*

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Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30	School Hall
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT...	see page 39
Pilates Class	Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am	Need to book online GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904 456 368
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 01691 610336	
Royal British Legion	INFORMAL MEETINGS 8pm Meeting, PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.	

4 June	COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	33
13 June	Derwen Fete and Dog show	33
18 June	Councillor Surgery - see below	
13,14 June	Jon Young Gardens and Studio open	19
4 July	Rivacres, Grimpo Open Garden	29
12th July	CARNIVAL DAY.	19



- PC Bookkeeping Service - page 46
- Cambrian Hearing service page 42
- Derwen College page 42
- Milne Installations page 32
- Rowen Tree Care page 32
- PARISH PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE ENCLOSED

YOUR opportunity to engage personally with your LOCAL COUNTY COUNCILLOR



3rd Thursday each month | Next surgery 18th June

WEST FELTON - 7pm to 8pm: at The Punch Bowl, at the back of the restaurant.
 or **WHITTINGTON**: 10am to 11am at Senior Citizens Hall, Station Road, Whittington in the back room - coinciding with coffee morning.

Cllr David Walker, Whittington Division: 01743 256863,
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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 JUNE 2026

Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

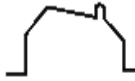
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Clerk to West Felton Parish Council: **Mrs Rosemary WOOD**

Parish Office: 5 Newtown Gardens

Baschurch, Shrewsbury SY4 2HF Tel 01939 262 881

Email: **see list.** Website: **www.westfelton-pc.gov.uk**

Chairman Cllr John THORNHILL 07714 759 466
Vice-Chairman Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR 07955 232 199
 Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School & SALC Area Committee)

Cllr Alastair FORBES 01691 610 524
 Cllr Mick GREEN 07928 479 305
 Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).
 Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354 (Rep SALC Area Committee).
 Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400
 Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)
 Cllr Neil SUMMERS 07523 318 005
 Cllr David WALKER 01691 897 117

Our Shropshire Councillor : Cllr David Walker T: 01743 256863
 Mobile: 07484 541576

Our Member of Parliament : Helen Morgan T: 01939 809387
 E: helen.morgan.mp@parliament.uk

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS

Rosemary Wood	clerk@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
John Thornhill	john.thornhill@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
Ozcan Ozagir	ozcan.ozagir@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
David Walker	david.walker@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
Marian Hesketh	marian.hesketh@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
David Curtis	david.curtis@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
Ed Nicholas	edward.nicholas@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
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Alastair Forbes	alastair.forbes@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
Neil Summers	neil.summers@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
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WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL Report from Chairman Cllr John Thornhill

This month's meeting was mainly spent discussing financial matters of the Council with year-end reports and data.

Various members took on responsibility for liaising with groups in the Parish. David Curtis continues as our link with the Primary school and also represents us on the Shropshire Association of Local Councils. Marian Hesketh is the Village Hall link with Ed Nicholas serving on the ABP Liaison group.

There were no planning applications to consider. However, we noted with grave concern that the application to install a Battery Energy Storage System had been approved by Shropshire Council. We remain worried about the fire risks as previously reported along with traffic and noise pollution. The building process may last some time and we fear that the current state of the Rednal straight may be further damaged by increased traffic during that process. In the application for planning permission the builders offered to provide a community benefit fund. We will approach them to ask what they intend to provide to the Village.

We have agreed to install a sign post indicating the location of St Michael's Parish Church. This will be sited on the corner of Holyhead Road and

School Road opposite the Punch Bowl. If anyone has experience in sign making or knows of anyone with such, please contact the Clerk with details.

We are still awaiting response to a number of issues and will continue to press Shropshire Council for positive outcomes to improve facilities in the Village. We noted that our application for Tree Protection Orders was approved but excluded three mature Oak trees on our list. We still await a list of all contractors approved to supply signs to designate the Conservation order. There has been some progress in response to our request for LED lighting on The Avenue, but we need further information particularly in relation to lights on the bypass bridge.

We will be investigating reports in relation to the damage to fencing in the middle of the play area with a view to replacement for safety reasons.

Council agreed to continue to hold meetings and the second Tuesday of every month, except August, for the next year.

After the formal business had been completed we discussed correspondence between a parishioner and the

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

office of our local MP, Helen Morgan. On behalf of the Council and parishioners, I will seek an open meeting in the parish with her to discuss our concerns about building applications



Shropshire Councillor report – April / May - Cllr David Walker

Over the past month I have had a significant amount of casework around bin, loose manhole covers, planning, unauthorised tree felling, highways and footpath issues.

A significant amount of my time has been spent progressing the new Local Plan, which is now moving into its formal next stage. At last week's cabinet we agreed

to give 4 months notice to start plan making in September. Following detailed work with officers and members we have agreed the framework for the plan, including a structured timetable and the approach to public engagement. The plan will begin with a formal scoping consultation, giving residents, parish councils and stakeholders the opportunity to shape the vision, priorities and settlement hierarchy. The consultation will ask questions rather than give answers at this stage. The map of the result from the call for sites is now published – link in appendix 4, paragraph 5.18 – these

already submitted.

We are holding the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan team on 19th May at 7 30 pm in the back room of the Punch Bowl Inn. You are most welcome. ●

are raw and unvarnished sites which haven't been assessed yet. There is no guarantee sites submitted will go forward.

Alongside this, I have been working through Cabinet business, including discussions at Cabinet & Executive Group - Cabinet Reports where the Local Plan programme, corporate priorities and wider service pressures were reviewed. This has included ensuring the Local Plan aligns with infrastructure delivery, housing need and the Council's wider strategic direction.

Regular meetings such as the Portfolio Holder Briefing/Planning Services have focused on keeping progress moving across planning services. This has included advancing supplementary planning guidance, strengthening design standards, and ensuring enforcement activity continues on key sites, including heritage and dangerous structures.

Planning enforcement remains a priority, with ongoing work to address breaches of planning conditions and ensure developments deliver on what

(Continued on page 9)

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was agreed. Officers continue to pursue both formal action and negotiated solutions where appropriate, with a clear focus on protecting local communities and infrastructure.

Highways and infrastructure issues have also remained a consistent theme. I have continued to press for progress on road adoptions, drainage, potholes and footpath improvements, and wider concerns raised by residents. I have also been working with officers on improving coordination and delivery across planning and highways services.

On the strategic side, there have also been wider organisational changes, including the appointment of a new service director for Place Shaping and adjustments to cabinet and scrutiny arrangements, strengthening oversight of housing and the Local Plan going forward. A new team leader for

Highways Planning has been appointed. This post has been left vacant since 2015!

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding continues to be an important area of work. I have been involved in discussions to improve transparency and distribution of funds and to ensure the system better reflects the needs of rural communities such as West Felton.

Overall, the past month has been focused on putting the building blocks in place for a more robust planning system for Shropshire—one that gives communities a stronger voice, ensures infrastructure is planned alongside growth, and provides greater certainty in decision-making—alongside continuing to progress day-to-day local issues on highways, planning and infrastructure. ●

PARISH definition – possible confusion?

Currently in West Felton we have two ‘parish’ projects going on:

- The preparation of a PARISH PROFILE to facilitate the recruitment of a new Parish Priest for West Felton and Whittington. A questionnaire will collect information from all the people in West Felton to help form this parish profile.
- Supported by West Felton Parish Council, the preparation of a NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN to discern the wishes of parishioners on how the local area develops. It is eventually fed into a new Shropshire statutory plan which dictates where new homes, shops, and offices should be built, and to influence the design and infrastructure of the community; written by local people rather than developers or local councils.

(Continued on page 11)



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(Continued from page 9)Parish

In England the term "parish" refers to two distinct systems: Diocesan (Ecclesiastical) Parishes and Civil Parishes—they often overlap geographically but serve entirely different functions, authorities, and purposes.

Here in West Felton we have:

Our **Ecclesiastical Church of England parish** within the Diocese of Lichfield is called the **Benefice of Whittington & West Felton with Haughton**: three churches, in two parishes with, (it is hoped) one priest, but with two separate Parochial Church Councils. The parochial church council (PCC) is the executive committee of a Church of England parish and consists of clergy and churchwardens, together with representatives of the laity; all volunteers, of course. Legally the PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church parish and the maintenance of its assets, such as churches and church halls. It has charitable status. It also assists the clergy in the management of church affairs in the parish, and promoting the mission of the church.

The **Shropshire Council Division of Whittington** covers two civil parishes, Whittington and West Felton, each with its separate Parish Council. A parish council is a civil local authority, the lowest tier of local government. Parish councils are elected corporate bodies that carry out beneficial public activities in geographical areas known as civil parishes. Parish councils may be known by different styles, as in Oswestry it is called the Town Council. However, their powers and duties are the same whatever name they carry. Parish councils receive the majority of their funding by levying a precept upon the council tax paid by the residents of the parish (or parishes) covered by the council. Parish councils are made up of unpaid councillors who are elected to serve for four years. Responsibilities and functions can include:

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13 June	Llanymynech Village Hall	7.45	
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West Felton Village Hall

Annual report to the Parish Council

Ian Walker. Vice Chair, West Felton Village Hall.

April 2026



The committee is pleased to report that the hall continues to be very well used into 2026. There are regular activities ongoing for every evening of the week, to include Table Tennis, Badminton, Yoga, Argentine dance and Ballroom and Latin dance lessons and dance training sessions. It is so positive to have the support of the evening hirers which brings regular income for the hall. During the week the hall hosts a monthly community coffee morning, which always attracts many parishioners for a chat, drink and a bacon roll.

The weekends find the hall continuing to be utilised for christenings, parties, craft fairs, bingo, magic shows and so much more which generates further fundraising.

Due to the high use of the main hall, there is a desire to promote more take up of the rear room to attract additional income.

This year, the hall has benefitted from a full cohort of willing and able committee Trustees. The team brings a good mix of skills which enables swift resolution of issues and reliable close out of actions from our quarterly committee meetings, and of course, the ongoing running and administration needed to make the hall the success that it is.

Currently, the Secretarial duties are being shared between the existing Trustees, so there is a vacancy for a permanent Secretary.

The hall infrastructure is in good order and many of the users comment on how good the hall looks. We benefit from reliable local tradesmen who are always on quick hand to deal with any issues. Infrastructure projects planned include replacing the main hall wall mounted heaters, which are now obsolete, and also a much-needed upgrade to the kitchen. These 2 projects will cost circa £8k so careful consideration is needed.

Finances remain under good control with some monies set aside for any short notice issues, and with the heating and kitchen projects in mind.

The hall continues to be an important meeting place in the centre of West Felton, providing a wide range of activities which are well used and supported by the local community. We have a hall to be proud of. ●

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Oh, to be in the garden now that summer is here

We had a long enough spell of no rain in late April that we had to resort to watering so expectations are that we will have at least one dry period in June, a time when the sun is at its highest. Amongst the advice for dealing with drought is to not bother with the lawn as it will recover—but who wants brown grass. The bulk of the usual advice is sensible if not always practical—for many of us there is a limit to how much mulching we can do and we don't want to be limited to drought resistant plants. However, let's hope we don't get too much of a problem.

Despite there being plenty of work to do this month, it is also a good time to enjoy your garden, and indeed enjoy other people's gardens, so try and find time for visits, particularly to gardens open for the National Garden Scheme. Don't forget those that are open by appointment for individuals, the owners really do want you to book a visit.

The first job of the month if you didn't take a chance and jump the gun is to plant out bedding. Always assuming of course that you do include half hardy bedding in your garden plan. We are trying to cut back to save effort but bedding is a splendid way of getting later summer colour and also to fill gaps. I count that we have 18 varieties (and we were cutting down?) which adds up to quite a few hundred plants.

Along with the bedding there are tomatoes and cucumbers to plant out in the glasshouse and sweet corn and runner beans to go outside. I will again plant beans in wigwams as it was so successful last year compared to rows. At the same time, I will be sowing more sweet corn in modules to give some succession as they can easily provide a glut. Seeds to sow include cauliflower, both winter and summer, while later in June I will sow chard and more beetroot.

Whilst all the planting and sowing is going on there are the perennial jobs of weeding, feeding and dealing with pests. You may have climbers and shrubs such as holly that could do with some trimming, and the same for plums and apricots grown as cordons or fans. June is a reasonable time to trim daffodils growing in grass. Finally, there will be some harvesting including the first potatoes.

The mention of bedding and long grass with daffodils brings to mind that plants and garden styles come and go in fashion, something I have great difficulty in understanding. I suspect much of it can be put down to getting bored and wanting change or the pressure from a zealous minority. However, I will not be going completely wild nor giving up bedding and am probably immune to the latest fad. ●

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

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West Mercia Police, Oswestry Police Station, Park St, Oswestry, SY11 2HE.**

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Parking Concerns in our Area



PC Wright, West Mercia Police, Oswestry Rural South

We continue to see an increase in parking issues and complaints across the area. Our officers are working hard to address these concerns, but there are also simple steps everyone can take to help keep our roads, pavements, and communities safe.

Inconsiderate or illegal parking puts pedestrians and other road users at risk. It can also block access for emergency vehicles, which may delay vital help when every second counts. While some enforcement is carried out by police and our partners, local authorities also employ parking enforcement officers to support this work. In many cases, raising awareness and encouraging considerate parking can resolve issues before enforcement becomes necessary.

We have six primary schools within our patch: Morda, Pant, Kinnerley, West Felton, Trefonen, and Ruyton XI Towns.

Unfortunately, we continue to receive reports of parents parking on zigzag lines, double yellow lines, and stopping in restricted zones during school drop-off and pick-up times. These markings are there for one reason only: to keep children and pedestrians safe.

Parking on or near school zig-zags reduces visibility, creates dangerous crossing conditions, and puts young people at real risk. This behaviour must stop.

Impact on Residents and Pedestrians

We are also seeing an increase in vehicles:

- * Blocking residents' driveways
- * Parking over pavements
- * Forcing pedestrians, including those with prams or mobility aids, into the road.

This is not acceptable. Pavements are for people, and obstructing them creates hazards for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Some of the most concerning reports have come from West Felton and Morda, where repeated poor parking is causing frustration for residents and creating unnecessary risks for children walking to and from school. A lack of respect for local residents, and more importantly, for the safety of children, cannot continue. We will continue to carry out patrols, engage with schools, and work alongside local authority parking enforcement officers.

However, the most effective solution is community cooperation.

**A moment of convenience for one driver
should never come at the expense of another person's safety.**

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Bank holiday 'away day walk' on 4th May.

We met at Punch Bowl, car share to Poachers Pocket at Chirk.
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and over and along Watts Dyke through bluebell wood and coming out at
Gardeners Cottage by Henlle Hall.
A welcome coffee and cake stop at Henlle Heights before downhill to canal
at Bridge 16 and back along towpath - a world away from busy holiday
traffic above us.

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From Eileen and the Carnival Committee

**Sunday
12th JULY**



Carnival day is getting closer now, and only about six weeks until our "Big Day" of the year. The end of June as usual will see the friends of the carnival calling on everyone in the village collecting for the Tombola Stall, bottles and bric-a-brac, so please support us as it takes so much to put the carnival on now. Gifts of chocolate, sweets and biscuits are favourite (but if people do give us tins of beans they will be going to the food bank as nobody wants to win a tin of beans on carnival day!)

We shall have the Grand Draw tickets to sell at just £2.50 a book with a first prize of £100.

There will be lots going on this year and we will reveal some surprises next month. Hopefully a few more floats are taking part now. The first prize is £50; with 2nd and 3rd prizes for children and adults, so well worth taking part.

Keep supporting the carnival we work hard to make it a day to remember!

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(Continued from page 35) WI

June we'll be entertained by Gabriela LaFoley and her ukulele while in July we'll be visited by West Mercia's branch of the 'Casualties Union' who will speak about the make up they create in portraying injured or ill people to provide training experiences. Our Oswestry North Group continues with its longstanding charitable support of the Derwen College's annual summer fete - over fifty years! In the meantime we'll gear up for the carnival and the

Oswestry Show which should all be very enjoyable.

Meetings begin at **7pm** in the Village Hall on the **second Thursday** of each month excepting August. Local women interested in joining this national organisation are welcome to come along to a meeting as a visitor for £5 which includes refreshments. Please contact us on **07375997782** or email

WestFeltonWI@wi-shropshire.co.uk

A Night of Music Charity Concert in aid of Severn Hospice and Hope House Friday 12th and

Saturday 13th June 2026, 7.30pm (curtain up at 7.30pm)



Oswestry based singing group "Take Five" have announced their charity concert for 2026 will be held at the Attfield Theatre (The Guildhall, Oswestry). Formed 4 years ago to raise money for local charities, "Take Five" - Mark Lord, Kate MacDonald, Bekah & Tom Evans and Jonathan Roberts - have raised over £10,000 since coming together and are looking forward to another successful show this year. Mark and Bekah are both members of Attfield Theatre Group. Previous shows have raised funds for Derwen College Charity, with added performances by students of the college. This year proceeds will be split between Hope House and Severn Hospice.

A Night of Music will feature a wide variety of music and genres from Motown to Musicals, Country to Coldplay and many huge hits from the last 70 years. We guarantee there will be something for everybody and plenty of opportunity for audience participation!

We are very grateful to have secured generous sponsorship from Berrys which will ensure that the money from every seat and raffle ticket sold goes to our chosen charities. We've also had some fabulous raffle prizes donated – top of which is a £200 voucher from Polka Dot Travel!

**Tickets are £12 and available now at www.ticketsource.co.uk/attfield
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NEW PARISH PRIEST BUT NOT A NEW DIOCESE

Michael Davie

**I begin this month's article
seeking your help.**

We have been given the go ahead to search for new priest for this parish. Our Parish representatives, Patricia Hicks and Christine Curtis, are working on a profile describing what goes on in the village and are seeking suggestions about what you would like in a priest. **Bear in mind a priest is there for all of us, not just church goers.**

A community has a need for weddings, funerals, baptisms, and clergy input into the school, but most importantly for pastoral care. There is a scarcity of clergy so not only should we express our own desires but also put ourselves in a priest's shoes and think what he or she might look for in us. Forms asking for your thoughts will be widely circulated. *[One is included in this magazine]*. Forms can also be obtained from and replies sent to either

Patricia patcat82@hotmail.co.uk or text 07825 814626) or Christine christinecurtis2022@hotmail.com or text 07765 793331).

Completed forms can also be placed in the box in West Felton Stores.

**Responses by the end of May
would be appreciated.**

As we look for a new priest for the parish, an event one hundred years ago reminds us that, but for one vote,



we might no longer be part of the Diocese of Lichfield. On 4th March 1926 the Lord Bishop of Manchester rose in the House of Lords to propose a bill to establish a Diocese of Shrewsbury. The early 20th century was an era of Diocesan creation. Already two new Dioceses had contracted the area of the Lichfield diocese. A Diocese of Shrewsbury would remove more parishes from Lichfield and, more crucially for the opposition, from Hereford as well.

The Bishop of Manchester gave some details. Lichfield Diocese had 472 parishes, 455 clergy and a population of 1.25m. Were the proposal to be passed there would be 331 benefices and a population of 1.2m. Explaining the reasoning for a new Diocese he emphasized that the distance Shropshire was from Lichfield prevented people from taking part in Diocesan affairs; Shropshire was an excrescence and Lichfield would be much better as a county Diocese for Staffordshire. The workload for the Bishop of Lichfield would be lessened. It was already high looking after two large industrial areas, Stoke in the north and the Black Country in the south. He omitted to say that Coventry and Birmingham had

(Continued on page 23)

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West Felton Women's Institute



Spring is Sprung!

In March we hailed Montgomery's long-serving former Town Crier Sue Blower as our guest speaker. As this was an 'open' meeting, a number of visitors from other local WIs joined us to be regaled by her stories; "a brilliant speaker, so entertaining with her wonderful reminiscing and photos to illustrate her stories. What a talented woman!" as one put it in thanking us for the evening. (We were also commended on our "delicious refreshments" J)

Other activities pre- and post- the forwarding of the clocks have included going to the Attfield to be entertained by the theatre group's rendition of 'Private Lives'; doing our bit with a litter-pick around the village and trekking to Much Wenlock for County's Spring Ramble. Setting off from Priory Hall near the Abbey we took in the sights such as the recreation fields for Dr William Penny Brookes' Wenlock Olympian Games and Much Wenlock Windmill (good place for a picnic apparently). Plenty of sounds too such as the cheerful chirping of the chiffchaff and the fluting song of the blackcap. Spring flowers abounded in the woods and meadows: native bluebells, wild garlic, garlic mustard (or 'Jack by the hedge') and celandine to name a few. Thanks to Much Wenlock WI for hosting members

from across the county and for providing a very welcome post-walk lunch of homemade soups and cakes.

Queen Mary's Dolls' House, the largest dolls' house in the world, was the subject of April's monthly meeting. It started being built in 1921 – just like West Felton WI! The architect Sir Edwin Lutyens aimed to create a perfect, 1:12 scale "miniature palace" which would serve as an enduring record of the skills of the finest British manufacturers, artists and craftspeople of the early twentieth century. It even has a tiny working cabinet gramophone as well as lifts and electric lights! And it deliberately doesn't contain any dolls! Our guest Mrs Annie Moody brought along replicas of two of the 600 miniature books from the library, one being a story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The library apparently includes miniature gardening books, atlases, stamp albums and even accurate train timetables. Hopefully we can organise a trip sometime to see this splendid work of art in situ in Windsor Castle.

In the coming weeks we look forward to a visit to Whitchurch for our outdoor meeting at 'Nature's Safe', the wildlife conservation charity aiming to preserve species through its cryo-biobank. In

(Continued on page 37)

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(Continued from page 21)

already been cleaved off earlier in the century. His speech contained not passion but management speak.

Lord Forester's speech opposing the motion was from the heart. The Forester family came from Willey Hall near Broseley in Shropshire. In an impassioned speech he said that the Hereford Diocese had traditionally been bounded by the Rivers Severn in the North and the Wye to the West for over 1000 years. The Diocese should not be ruthlessly broken up to relieve Lichfield by injuring other parts of the church. The idea of Hereford giving up South Shropshire had first been mooted in 1888 when Hereford Diocese was seeking to expand into Wales. It should be strongly resisted.

The Bishop of Durham, an erstwhile Bishop of Hereford, suggested that Shropshire should have a suffragan. Financially only 60% of parish share was being paid and a new Diocese would struggle. He bewailed the intellectual poverty among the clergy, the difficulty in recruiting clergy (plus ça change), and the changing attitude of people to the church.

The Bishop of Lichfield believed that Lichfield Diocese was too large, though hastily implying that he wasn't trying to have less work to do. He believed that the financial position of the Diocese would be relieved by removing Shropshire which rather implied that such a move might burden Here-

ford. He was in favour of the measure.

Lord Somers, later to become Governor General of Victoria and Chief scout, who lived near Ledbury stated that the laity in Herefordshire were overwhelmingly against the measure.

The Bishop of Norwich was dead against the measure. He believed that the vigour of the church came from devoted clergymen and not from the multiplication of church officers and committees. In proper Dioceses, Bishops could be Bishops; in smaller Dioceses they ended up doing the work of Archdeacons and Rural Deans themselves.

At the division 121 members of the House of Lords voted. Sixty were in favour including 8 Bishops and 61 were against including two bishops. The Diocese of Shrewsbury failed by one vote.

Many points from the speeches parallel themes for today. The state and numbers of the clergy, the attitude of the people to the church, the importance of clergy on the ground as opposed to officers and committees and the shortfall in parish share are all matters that worry the church today. Lichfield diocese now has a population of 2.14million, with 424 parishes, but only 245 full time clergy posts of which only about 70% are filled – and the parish share for the Diocese still shows a shortfall.●

Headteacher's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting Spring 2026

ASPIRATION : DIGNITY : KINDNESS : COMMUNITY

West Felton CofE Primary School 2025/26

School Road, West Felton, 01691 610388, Helen.Hughes@wef.mmat.co.uk

Thank you very much, as always, for the opportunity to report to the Parish Council; one of our core values is Community and it is something we hold in the highest regard.

We are exceptionally fortunate to be part of such a beautiful rural parish. Our school day runs from 8:55am – 3:30pm. We also provide 'wraparound care' which is a childcare facility before and after school, enabling parents to work whilst our children are well catered for. Breakfast and After Club from 7:50am – 6:00pm Monday to Friday for Reception to Y6, with Nursery offered provision every morning and every Thursday and Friday. 18 children regularly attend each morning and 20 each evening.

We employ 38 members of staff, both part and full time, 72% of whom live in the Parish. We currently have 163 children on roll, 80% of whom live in the Parish. Catkins Acorn Oak Beech Willow Sycamore

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32	19	26	27	27	32

Highlights this year...

Our educational standards

We are delighted to report another strong set of outcomes at West Felton CE Primary School in 2024/25, with results that compare very favourably to national averages.

An impressive 71% of pupils achieved the combined standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, well above the national figure of 62%. In Reading, 100% of pupils met the expected standard (75% nationally), while 79% achieved the expected standard in Writing (72% nationally). Mathematics outcomes were equally strong, with 93% reaching the expected standard compared to 74% nationally, and 93% achieving the expected standard in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, significantly above the 73% national average. Our pupils' average scaled score in Reading was 108 (national 106), and in Mathematics 105, in line with the national figure.

(Continued on page 25)

Derwen Fete & Dog Show

Enter the Grand Raffle!

Sponsored by **DUFFY'S DINER**

Saturday 13 June 10am - 4pm

Fete Competitions

- Recycled Art
- Handmade wearable item
- Jar of homemade chutney
- Photography (Theme: My Home)
- Homemade cake (Theme: Flowers)
- Flower arrangement (Theme: Seasons)

More details on our website

Dog Show

- Most Handsome Guy
- Prettiest Bitch
- Best puppy (under 1 year)
- Best veteran (over 7 years)
- Waggiest Tail
- Scruffiest Dog
- Cleverest Dog
- Best in Show

Local Artisan Crafts
Grand Raffle ★ Duck Race

Telephone: 01691 661234
Website: www.derwen.ac.uk

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Derwen College, Whittington Road, Gobowen, SY11 3JA

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

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10-12noon



Thursday, 4th JUNE

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Bacon baps £1 extra.



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(Continued from page 24)

In addition, 42% of pupils achieved greater depth in Reading and 14% in Mathematics.

We also received a letter from the secretary of state for education:

“Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at West Felton Church of England Primary School and Nursery achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school’s performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.”

Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, January 2026

These outcomes reflect the hard work of our pupils, the dedication of our staff, and the continued support of parents and the wider community, and we are extremely proud of this year’s achievements.

The Marches Academy Trust

This year West Felton CE Primary School formally joined The Marches Academy Trust, marking an important step in the school’s continued development. Since joining the Trust, staff have benefited from significantly enhanced professional development opportunities, including training focused on EYFS excellence, attendance, the science of reading, and Teach Like a Champion. This high-quality professional learning is already strengthening classroom practice and leadership capacity across the school.

Our pupils are likewise benefitting from wider opportunities, including collaborative sporting events, enrichment activities, and an upcoming Dragon’s Den-style enterprise event in Oswestry, enabling them to learn alongside peers from across the Trust.

While the transition has not been without its challenges — with onboarding processes, system changes, and increased demands on the Senior Leadership Team requiring considerable time and commitment — the long-term benefits are clear. We are confident that membership of the Trust places the school in a strong position for continued improvement and expanded opportunities for both staff and pupils, whilst maintaining strong links with our feeder secondary school, The Corbet.

Community

Community engagement continues to be a central strength of West Felton CE Primary School, reflecting our commitment to being at the heart of village life. This year, pupils proudly represented the school with two vibrant floats in the wonderful West Felton Carnival, alongside a confident performance on the main stage. Our traditional Harvest Festival at St Michael’s Church, West Felton was

(Continued on page 27)

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West Felton School and Nursery : What is going on in Early Years?

This term our youngest children are busy learning all about the world around them. We have been learning about life cycles and are carefully watching the transformation of caterpillars into butterflies. We have also been busy developing our garden area for the butterflies and other insects to then live in.

We have also been learning lots about our wider local environment. In late June/ early July our Reception children (4+5yr olds) will be out around the village carrying out litter picks to help make our village an even nicer place to live. Please do give us a wave if you see us out and about. Meanwhile our nursery children (2+3 year olds) will be carrying out litter picks in the school grounds.

Nursery
Early Years Unit
NOW ALLOCATING SPACES FOR SEPT 2026

- Additional spaces now available and being allocated for 2, 3 or 4 year olds for September 26. Advance bookings for Sept 2027 now also being taken.
- We accept 24U and Working family funding.
- Led by a qualified Early Years teacher.
- Kind, caring and nurturing atmosphere.
- Offering excellent transition into school.

OFSTED 'Good' July 2022
SIAMs 'Outstanding'

We are busy allocating nursery places for children wishing to join us in September 2026 and beyond. Places are filling up quickly. So please do get in touch if you would like to look around or book a space for your child.

Contact: sue.miller@wef.mmat.co.uk

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further enhanced by a harvest-themed art competition generously sponsored by the church, deepening links between school and parish. We were honoured to participate in the Village Remembrance Concert, where our choir performed to a packed audience, and to attend the village war memorial on Remembrance Day, where a Year 6 pupil delivered a moving reading of Flanders Fields. The festive season saw strong community support at the village Christmas Concert, as well as the privilege of hosting the village Christingle Service in school.

Most recently, pupils returned from an awe-inspiring Faith Tour to Derby, strengthening their inter-faith knowledge and understanding, again with the valued sponsorship of St Michael's Church. We are also extremely grateful to the Parish Council for supporting our Summer Reading Picnic initiative, which undoubtedly contributed to our outstanding Reading outcomes this year. These shared events and partnerships not only enrich pupils' experiences but foster a strong sense of belonging, service and mutual support within our community — something we deeply value and are proud to sustain.

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible contributions of our newly-formed Friends Association this year. Their brilliant events—from the Quiz Night and Spooky Disco to the Easter Trail and festive visit from Father Christmas—have brought joy, laughter, and fun to our pupils and families, while raising much-needed funds to benefit every child. Beyond the fundraising, their efforts to re-decorate the hall and support school activities have strengthened our sense of community, helping families connect and making West Felton an even more welcoming, vibrant, and inspiring place to learn.

It is my 22nd year at West Felton CofE Primary School & Nursery and I am continually inspired by the generosity, enthusiasm, and commitment of our community. Your support not only enriches the experiences of our pupils but also helps make our school a truly welcoming and thriving place where every child can flourish. I am deeply grateful to everyone who plays a part in making this such a special year for our children.

Yours sincerely, Helen Hughes

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