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CAXTON SURGERY <a href="https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx">https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx</a>	01691 654646
Citizens Advice Bureau, Castle View	03444 991100
CORBET SCHOOL <a href="http://www.corbetschool.net">www.corbetschool.net</a>	01939 260296
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ELECTRICITY Scottish Power (Manweb as was)	0800 001 5400
KNOCKIN Medical Practice	01691 682203
NHS Out of Hours Service	111
Orthopaedic Hospital	01691 404000
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POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number Oswestry Police Station Safer Neighbourhood team—email: <a href="mailto:oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>	101 0300 333 3000
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QUEENS HEAD RESTAURANT	01691 610255
RAIL STATION, GOBOWEN	01691 681010
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SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789000 0345 6789020
Shrops Councillor: Cllr David Walker	01743 256863/ 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
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Year 34

JULY 2026

# ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

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All ready for Carnival Day? Page 19

# W H A T 'S O N

<b>Parish Council</b>	Second Tues of the month, 7:30	School Hall
<b>West Felton Walkers</b>	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl	<b>EXCEPT...see page 27</b>
<b>Pilates Class</b>	Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am	Need to book online GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904 456 368
<b>Badminton</b>	Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm.	Village Hall
<b>Tuesday Tots</b>	Every term time Tuesday 9.15 - 10.30	West Felton School
<b>Felton Flexors</b>	Wednesday mornings 9:30am to 10:30am	Village Hall
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Thursday 7:30pm	Village Hall
<b>WI</b>	2nd Thursday of the month 7pm	Village Hall
<b>Short Mat Bowls</b>	contact Glynnis on 01691 610336	
<b>Royal British Legion</b>	<b>INFORMAL MEETINGS</b> 8pm Meeting, <b>PUNCH BOWL</b> first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.	

<b>30th JUNE</b>	<b>7pm VILLAGE HALL BACK ROOM - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ACTION TEAM MEETING.</b>	
<b>LAST WEEK IN JUNE</b>	<b>House to house collection for Carnival Tombola - have your goodies ready. Support your village big day out.</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2nd July</b>	<b>10am COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>4th July</b>	<b>GARDEN OPEN Rivacres, Grimpo</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>12th July</b>	<b>CARNIVAL DAY.</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>16th July</b>	<b>County Councillor Surgery - see below</b>	

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

Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

[colleenhughes748@btinternet.com](mailto:colleenhughes748@btinternet.com)

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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: **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](mailto: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
Pat Mabe	pat.mabe@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
Chris Jones	chris.jones@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
Alastair Forbes	alastair.forbes@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
Neil Summers	neil.summers@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
Mick Green	michael.green@westfelton-pc.gov.uk

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## WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026/27

14 July 2026	8 December 2026	13 April 2027
8 September 2026	12 January 2027	11 May 2027
13 October 2026	9 February 2027	
10 November 2026	9 March 2027	

## WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL Report from Chairman Cllr John Thornhill

**Lighting on the Avenue.** I am pleased to say that after a long delay and due to the intervention of our Shropshire Councillor David Walker we have now got movement on this long standing issue. A site meeting was held on 8th June which resulted in the Council agreeing to look further into our requests and provide us with a quotation for the installation of the lighting we have requested. However there is still some delay on request for uplighters.

**Pot Holes.** David also reported that the Council had been busy and has filled 11230 potholes on our roads which will be permanent fillings not temporary ones. He also informed us that work will begin on the major resurfacing of the road from Queens Head through Rednal to the parish boundary. The work will be carried out in 5 chunks and will in-

volve a full closure during the day with some night-time closures. The details are as follows:

Start Date: 27th July 2026 - End Date: 16th August 2026

Road closure weekdays and weekends 08:30-15:30.

Road closure nights of 10-12 Aug 26: 20:00-06:00.

**Neighbourhood Plan.** A meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan team was held on 19th May 2025. It was a positive meeting at which the main topic of discussion was based around communications with all members of the parish. We examined a range of methods to do this including:

- \* Creating a poster setting out the role of the group and its purpose for the Parish – with a 'before and after' ap-

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

proach. This has now been completed and they have been placed in locations around the village. You may have seen it in one of these.

- \* Setting up a dedicated Facebook page and common email address for direct communication to the team.
- \* A stall at the Carnival in July – so please come and tell us your views.
- \* Using a range of communication techniques including this magazine.

**The next meeting of the team will be on 30th June, 7pm in the back room of the Village Hall** and a main topic of discussion will be how we can properly communicate with the younger members of the village. *Any suggestions will be most welcome so please send them to the Parish Clerk.*

**Conservation Area signs.** We are still awaiting details from the relevant Council engineer of a suitable contractor for the signs and a site visit will then be organised.

**Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC).** David Curtis attend the recent meeting of the

Oswestry Committee on 8th June, at which there were two key points of discussion.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** new initiatives for future application and clarity. This levy is a planning charge local authorities impose on new developments to help fund vital infrastructure—such as roads, schools, and healthcare—needed to support growth. For the record West Felton has been allocated a total of £763,024 of all CIL categories since the inception of the scheme in 2012, of which £250,000 was allocated following application for the building of our School Hall. We currently hold CIL money of which some is already allocated to Traffic Calming – delayed by lack of positive responses on this project.

**The Local Plan Scoping Consultation.** This consultation has been sent to all Councils for their input and will run to the 15th July 2026. This process will then be incorporated into a formal 30 Month plan-making period leading up to the adoption of the Local Plan for Shropshire in May 2029. The adopted plan will cover the period to 2046. As I have previously re-

(Continued on page 9)

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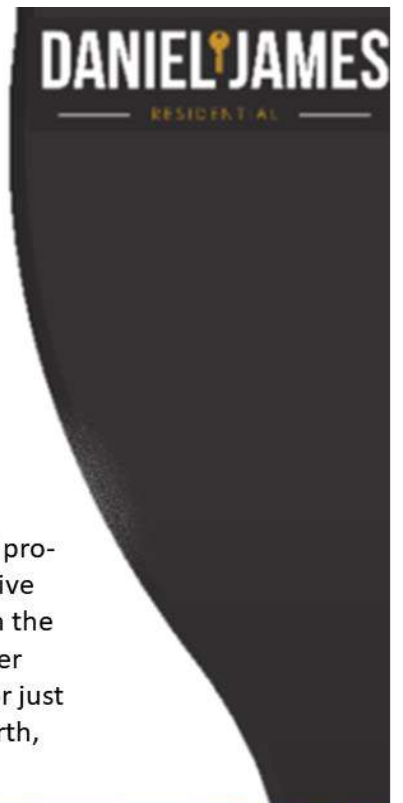
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(Continued from page 8)

ported the Local Plan that was prepared for Shropshire Council was rejected by Government Inspectors so we have to start again. There was wide discussion on the content of the proposals which include new categories for towns and villages based on what is called the Connectivity Index - the ability to travel without the use of cars and therefore ascertain where development may be most appropriate. West Felton was placed in a high category and concerns were expressed that the Index did not take into account the infrastructure and lack of relevant and important services not availa-

ble within the village. Members agreed that we should raise this issue to have our category revisited and amended to take account of this factor. If you wish to find out more and give your views you can access the website below where there is a questionnaire. Your comments would also be welcome to the Parish Council in drafting its response. Please send any to the Clerk.

<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>

**Closing date: 15th of July. I would urge everyone to participate in this important consultation.**



### Shropshire Councillor Report May / June 26

Cllr David Walker

Over the past month I have continued to focus on a mix of local casework, planning matters and wider strategic work linked to my Cabinet portfolio.

A significant element of my work locally has been dealing with drainage and highways issues raised by residents. I have followed up a number of

concerns regarding surface water and drainage, particularly where persistent problems have occurred after periods of heavy rainfall. These have been raised directly with the relevant officers, and I have requested updates on both investigation and potential remediation. I will continue to monitor these closely, as they have a direct impact on residents and the local road network.

Highways maintenance has also featured prominently, with reports of potholes, road surface deterioration

(Continued on page 11)



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*(Continued from page 9) County council*

and verge issues being escalated. I have submitted and tracked these matters through the appropriate channels and have pushed for timely inspection and repair. Where issues have been recurring, I have sought further clarification from highways officers to ensure that more durable solutions are considered rather than repeated short-term fixes. After all, prevention is better than cure. The prevention budget has been doubled. Reversing the reduction from 91% of the highways budget to 75% of the budget in 2024/25. This will have played a big part in the spike in the number of potholes this year. There are 162 projects for resurfacing and surface dressing as part of the increased prevention program of works.

I am meeting Highline Electrical next week to progress the new street lighting on The Avenue after discussions with Shropshire Council officers, and will report back to Tuesday's parish council meeting.

Alongside this, I have continued to deal with a wider range of resident enquiries, including environmental maintenance and general local concerns, particularly planning enforcement matters. I have raised these with officers and will continue to press for progress where needed.

Planning remains a significant area of

activity. I am increasingly optimistic that The Nursery application will get rejected following discussions with officers last week. I will continue to defend the parish against inappropriate development. I will be attending the public meeting next week with Helen Morgan MP.

Last week saw the launch of a scoping consultation as an important precursor to the Local Plan commencing next September. This consultation poses questions rather than supply answers and is about hearing your views on the process. The result of the call for sites exercise is included with a map of all sites submitted by developers and landowners. Sites have been promoted by them, not Shropshire Council. All sites will be assessed during the local plan process and many sites won't pass that assessment.

<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>

Closing date: 15th of July. I would urge everyone to participate in this important consultation.

Next week's cabinet will again adopt two new Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). These will help bolster existing policy while we have don't have a local plan. The new SPDs

*(Continued on page 13)*

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Purpose: Road Closure - Remedial  
Works Promoter: SEVERN TRENT WATER LIMITED  
Works Promoter Ref: LB9225201-000006737828-03  
Enforcement pattern for Unnamed Road, Rednal: All the time

You can view the closure and diversion route by visiting :  
<https://one.network/?tm=GB149410347>

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

*(Continued from page 11)*

are: Design of New Dwellings and Design of Residential Extensions and Alterations.

These SPDs when combined with other ongoing policy work will ensure that future development is both appropriate in scale and sensitive to local character. It is important that we have robust planning policies.

The Cabinet meeting will also focus on major service and corporate decisions, particularly adult social care changes, the 2025/26 financial outturn and treasury update, and quarter 4 performance. Overspend has been stabilised but remains significant through in-year cuts. While government support is still required, it will now be at a lower level. Key strategic items including the Local Transport Plan, commissioning and

procurement, children's services reforms, the Improvement Plan, housing enforcement policies, asset decisions, and the Hills Ford Rally report.

I have also maintained regular engagement with officers across highways, planning and environmental services to raise parish-specific concerns and to monitor progress on outstanding matters, escalating where necessary.

My monthly surgeries continues to provide an opportunity for residents to raise issues directly with me, and I will continue to hold these sessions to ensure I remain accessible to residents.

If there are specific issues you would like me to pursue, please do not hesitate to let me know. ●

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**Alligator Problem**  
**By Michael Rosen**

If an excavator excavates  
A motivator motivates  
An activator activates  
A rotivator rotivates  
A cultivator cultivates  
And an operator operates  
What does an alligator do?



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- 📍 Sutton
- 📍 Woolston

## Next Action Team Meeting: June 30th

The team will set the work plan to be communicated at a future public meeting.



A future Public Meeting is planned -  
It will be a critical event for all residents

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## Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

### The heat of summer

The last of the brassica plants go out at the beginning of the month, and a second batch of cucumbers need potting on. Later sown things such as chard and beetroot need thinning and lettuce sown for succession. That is about it for planting but the maintenance will guarantee to keep you busy. Apart from the usual feeding, weeding and watering, keep an eye out for pests such as cabbage caterpillars and don't forget the summer pruning. I will have to put mesh tunnels over carrots and leeks to prevent insect attack.

Every year I mention the annual garden assessment and this year will be no exception. Towards the end of the month, we will be out there with notepads and critical looks to record what needs changing or renewing. I know in advance that there will be yet more shrubs needing severe pruning or removal due to having been ignored for too long. It is the old story of planting things that, when mature, are really far too big for the space available, but I doubt I will ever learn. Cutting something too big is relatively easy, but disposing of the debris takes much longer.

Just like last year, we have had periods of severe rain and very high temperatures. The latter resulted in a battle to keep trays of seedlings and pots of young plants alive before they were planted out. We are past that now but we can still expect the need for water-

ing in July.

We avoided disaster with seedlings dying from drought but we had mouse problems. I put traps in the glasshouse as routine but have never had a problem in the cold frame—until this year. Many of my brassica seedlings were nipped off so I had to hastily get replacements. Another lesson learnt. In fact, two lessons because it made me think whether it was worth the bother of sowing seed when plants can be bought from, for example, Oakgate Nursery and Garden Centre. The downside of buying in is that you can't get your preferred varieties, so the jury is out pending how the plants perform.

A second first time failure was my decision to buy Black Spanish Round radish seed, which in retrospect seems a strange choice, and I don't remember what prompted it. Anyway, they grew a lot of foliage but only a thin tapering root so were a complete disaster. Possibly they would be OK sown in autumn but need to be avoided for the usual radish season.

Things come in threes, and my third disaster involved watering. I took a sprayer to wage war on some weeds. As I pumped it up it exploded showering me and the surroundings with Weedol. The sprayer was made from a polyolefin which over a few seasons had severely degraded due to heat and UV light. It was a small cheap sprayer but the lesson is store it carefully. ●

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



PC Mark Wright M: 07977 957689 Direct Dial: 101.  
PCSO Kurt Mabe 07870 219669  
PCSO Stuart Carroll M: 07970 544372 | Direct Dial: 101 Ext. 7704043  
Team email: [oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk)

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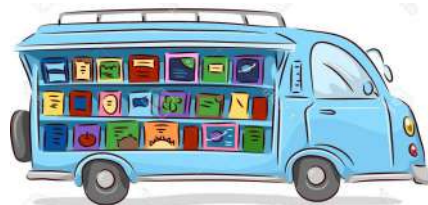
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The Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group has been looking for Curlew, Lapwing, Kestrel, Cuckoo and Red Kite since late March, in our area that extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastwards from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns: from the Tanat to the Perry.



We are trying to find all Curlew nests this year, to protect them with an electric fence. If you've seen or heard any of these species, please don't assume we know about them.

Please report all your observations, especially any Curlew ("the most important bird conservation priority in the UK") to Leo Smith 07791 901732, [leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk). If you want to help next year, please contact Leo.

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*(Continued from page 35)*

challenge, and extend learning opportunities.

By extending this highly effective model into Years 1 and 2, we aim to nurture motivated, capable learners who are ready for the next stage of their education.

### What happens next?

Work is already well underway to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

Staff are:

- \* Developing an exciting new curriculum tailored to this approach
- \* Reviewing staffing arrangements to maximise support for all children
- \* Visiting outstanding schools to learn from best practice
- \* Investing in new furniture and resources to enhance our learning environments
- \* Looking ahead

We are incredibly excited about these changes and the positive impact they will have on our children. By building on what we already do well and embracing proven approaches, we are confident that this new structure will create an inspiring, nurturing, and forward-thinking learning experience for every child.

We look forward to sharing more updates with our community as we move towards September 2026.▪

### Thank You to Our Punch Bowl Community

A huge thank you goes out to Sally and her team for organising the pub quiz on Sunday the 7th. The quiz was held in memory of my beloved husband, Graham Casson, who supported the pub quiz for many years and always enjoyed being part of it.

Our quizmasters, Nicky and Dave, put together an amazing set of questions, including a special round dedicated to Graham and his interests. A great deal of hard work clearly went into preparing the evening, and I am truly grateful. Thank you to all the friends and family who came along on the night, and to those who couldn't attend but kindly donated.

Your generosity means so much. All proceeds from the evening have been donated to Graham's chosen charity, The Samaritans.

West Felton is not just a village of neighbours but a village of friends who look after one another.

**Thank you all, June Casson**



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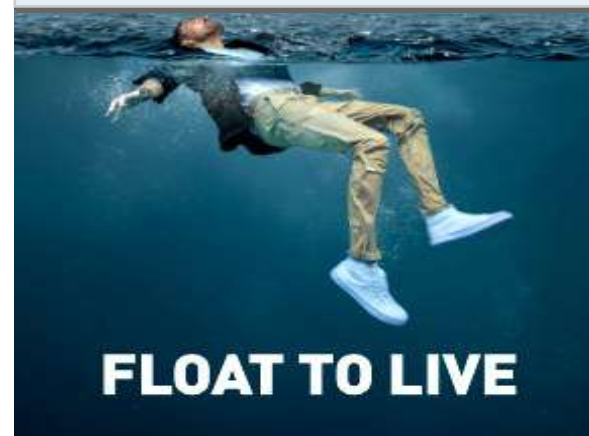
It has helped save the  
lives of more than 50  
people in all sorts of  
situations, from children  
in rip currents to runners  
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waves, to fisherman fall-  
ing overboard.

1. The best way to float is to tilt your head back with your ears submerged.
2. Try to relax and breathe normally.
3. You can gently move your hands and legs to help you stay afloat if you need to.
4. Spread your arms and legs out to improve stability – and it's OK if your legs sink, we all float differently.
5. Once your breathing is under control, call for help or swim to safety.
6. Practise floating in a supervised location like a swimming pool.



# Lifeboats

The water is home to unseen threats.  
Threats that will take your breath away.  
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If you find yourself  
struggling in the water, remember  
**FLOAT TO LIVE ...**



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## West Felton School and Nursery Exciting Developments at Our School from September 2026



We are delighted to share plans for an exciting new chapter at our school, with the introduction of a refreshed whole-school structure from September 2026. These changes are designed to better meet the needs of our growing school community and ensure every child thrives in their early years of education.

### Why are we making this change?

Over recent years, our school has grown significantly, bringing both opportunities and challenges. Our classrooms are increasingly full, and we are continually reflecting on how best to support all children in a changing world. We also recognise that children’s needs have evolved, particularly following the disruption of the Covid years. As a result, we have carefully considered the latest educational research, which highlights the importance of extending early years approaches beyond Reception.

This research consistently shows that all children benefit greatly from learning environments that encourage independence, curiosity, and a genuine love of learning.

### What will be different?

From September 2026, we will introduce a Continuous Provision model for children from Nursery to Year 2, bringing Early Years (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 (KS1) together in a seamless learning experience. For Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6), children will learn in single year groups, ensuring focused teaching and continued progression as pupils move through the school. Classes will be between 19 – 22 compared to our largest currently of 34.

### What is Continuous Provision?

Many of our families will already be familiar with this approach through our Catkins and Acorns classes. Continuous Provision creates a carefully designed learning environment—both indoors and outdoors—where children can explore, investigate, and learn through play and structured choice. Rather than moving to a more formal, timetable-driven structure too early, this approach allows children to develop key skills at their own pace. It builds confidence, independence, and enthusiasm, while staff are on hand to guide,

*(Continued on page 37)*

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## Rector, vicar, priest, parson

*Michael Davie*

Rector, vicar, priest, parson – what’s in name? Debate has raged over what title West Felton church should call its representative to lead the church. These days all the titles are used interchangeably, but historically they have important differences.

Priest is a term used from the earliest of times and refers to any person authorised to undertake religious duties. Many religions have people who are termed priests and as such it is often used as a name intended to be inclusive. The word is derived from Presbyter, or elder, and priests were often the most learned and educated members of society. The word Priest appears regularly in both the Old and New Testaments. As Christianity took root, the people authorised to administer religious rituals were called priests. It was therefore natural for the Christian denomination in the early church, Roman Catholicism, to call their clergy priests. The name survived in the Eastern Orthodox church after the Great Schism of 1054 when the Eastern church broke with Rome.

Rector is an old denomination, meaning “direct in a straight line” or ruler. Early Bishops were often called Rectors and today some academic institutions have Rectors. Early (pre 11th century) many parish churches were built and owned by landowners who kept the right to appoint the Rector.

Following church reforms in the 11th century many parishes were passed to monasteries. These became not only powerful but wealthy and owned a large area of the country. The Dissolution of the Monasteries in the mid 16th century caused substantial upheaval, both religious and financial. As well as beginning the dissociation from Rome and acquiring much monastic wealth, Henry VIII also sold off the land and the rights to appoint a clergyman to the former Monastic Rectory. Many rights were acquired by Lay people who became Lay Rectors. They were responsible for collecting the tithes to pay the Rector and also, which caused much disquiet in later centuries, the responsibility for looking after the church chancel. By 1603, over one third of Benefices were in the hands of lay Rectors.

The ability to nominate a person to a Rectorship, or living, was known as an advowson. One person could hold more than one nomination. Advowsons could be bought and sold and in later centuries these became valuable often being used to put a second son into a comfortable existence.

Most Rectors had a reasonable income being entitled to the greater tithes and, if there were no vicar, to



*(Continued on page 25)*

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## Join a free Shared Reading Group at Oswestry Library.



The Reader, a national Shared Reading charity based in Liverpool, runs a free, weekly Shared Reading group in Oswestry library every Monday afternoon 2.30pm to 4pm. Everyone is welcome.

People connect and share experiences using stories and poems. There is no pressure to talk or read aloud or to come every week.

Shared Reading brings people together through stories and poems, creating opportunities to connect, reflect and share experiences in a friendly and supportive environment. There is no pressure to read aloud, speak, or attend every week – you can simply come along and listen.

The charity has more than 420 Shared Reading groups across the UK and 850 volunteers. Research shows that Shared Reading can improve wellbeing, reduce social isolation, and help build stronger, more supportive communities.

To find out more about Shared Reading come along to Oswestry library any Monday afternoon or visit [www.thereader.org.uk](http://www.thereader.org.uk) New members are always

*(Continued from page 31)*

The report also highlights wider health inequalities, noting that some people struggle to manage medication due to complex systems, lack of support, or digital exclusion.

Healthwatch Shropshire is calling for better coordination across services, clearer communication with patients, and consideration of those who may find it difficult to navigate digital systems.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said:

“Thank you to everyone who shared their experiences with us. Your feedback helps us understand how services are working in practice. Many people value digital tools like the NHS App and the support of hardworking pharmacy staff, but delays, communication issues and system changes are still causing frustration for some. This report highlights opportunities to build on what works well and improve access to safe, timely medication for everyone in Shropshire.”

You can read the full report here. <https://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/report/2026-05-28/healthwatch-shropshire-publishes-report-access-medication-across-county>



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*(Continued from page 23)*

the lesser tithes as well. The greater tithes related to that which came from the land – corn, hay, wood and often wool – while the lesser tithes included milk, eggs, and lambs. In later centuries these were delivered in cash. Additionally Rectors could get payment from the glebe lands. Tithe was widely hated and led to much ill feeling towards the church (see West Felton magazine June and July 2016). Lay rectors could also collect the tithe, but had to pay the clergyman out of the proceeds. Before World War II the rector of West Felton had about £750/yr and that of Whittington £1000/yr. After 1924 the ability to nominate to a living was restricted to the next two appointments.

The term Vicar has its origin in the Latin Vicarius meaning a substitute. It originated in the Roman Empire around 280 AD as a secular office. A Vicarius was in charge of the running a Diocese – a district under a governor – and was an important person. At that time the Christian church recognised only Bishops, who oversaw a Diocese, a term borrowed, as in much of Christianity, from Rome, and its priests and Deacons. By the 4th century AD, the Pope, himself termed the Vicar of Christ, required legates to travel to the Eastern church. Known as Vicars of the Apostolic See, they had considerable administrative powers over the areas that they controlled. In the English church, vicars

often came under monasteries and became separated during the Dissolution of the monasteries. In subsequent centuries a vicar was often a substitute for a Rector. Vicars had to make do with the lesser tithes, which were often insufficient to make a living. He might be paid by a Rector, especially if the latter had more than one living. Lay Rectors were expected to pay the vicar out of the lesser tithes. The writings of Jane Austen and Anthony Trollope do not paint a happy picture of a vicar. He was indeed a substitute. With the passing of the Tithe redemption act (1936) and the Glebe act (1976), the financial advantages of a rector were removed and all clergy received the same pay. In 1977 a clause in the Finance bill finally put paid to tithe.

The terms Rector and Vicar have tended to become associated with the Church of England because of the historical way of paying clergy who looked after a parish, although everyone was a priest. Merriam Webster lists 53 alternative names for a priest, of which 19 might be considered in common use. West Felton technically has a Rector. Since the differentiation between a Rector, a vicar or a priest is anything but clear to most people, though hopefully you are now better informed, West Felton church elected to use the term priest which does have the advantage of the longevity of use. ●

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**Healthwatch Shropshire Publishes Report  
On Access To Medication Across The County**

Healthwatch Shropshire has published a new report exploring people’s experiences of accessing medication, highlighting both positive progress and ongoing challenges within local pharmacy and prescribing systems.

The report, based on feedback from over 55 people gathered between April and December 2025, was commissioned in response to increasing public concern about pharmacy services, changes to prescription ordering systems, and the withdrawal of the Prescription Ordering Direct (POD) service. Local councillors and residents had raised issues about delays, confusion, and difficulties accessing essential medication, prompting Healthwatch Shropshire to investigate further.

**Key findings - The report shows a mixed picture of experiences:**

45% of respondents said the NHS App made ordering prescriptions “quick and easy”

20% praised the speed and helpfulness of pharmacy staff

However, 20% reported unacceptable waiting times

10% described the system as confusing or inefficient

Some people experienced multiple trips to pharmacies due to stock issues or delays

While many people welcomed digital improvements, for example the NHS app, others—particularly older people and those without access to technology—felt left behind by the shift towards online systems.

The report found strong appreciation for pharmacy staff, with many recognising their professionalism and dedication under pressure. One person commented:

**“Staff amazing – system awful, but staff always helpful.”**

Positive experiences were also reported where systems worked effectively, with some people receiving prescriptions quickly and benefiting from clear communication and integrated services.

Despite these positives, the report identifies several areas for improvement:

Reducing delays between GP prescribing and pharmacy dispensing

Improving communication between services

Addressing stock shortages

Ensuring systems are accessible for all, particularly older and vulnerable residents

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Away walk for 1st June saw 10 folk meet at Punchbowl before car share to

meet at Ellesmere. Walk led by Ken, off around the houses and through wood onto fields across to Houghton farm.

Along through more woodland onto mere side and a welcome coffee stop at the boathouse.

Returned to cars via winding footpath and canal side walk past marina.

Weather was on our side which made a lovely gentle walk across varied terrain, lovely nature. Thank you Ken.



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