

AgeUK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin ext.231	01743 233123
BINS - Waste Management <a href="mailto:customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk">customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	0345 6789007
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
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: <a href="mailto:westfeltonpc@gmail.com">westfeltonpc@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/">https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/</a>	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: <a href="mailto:oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a>	
PRADOE CHURCH: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	07543 040618
QUEENS HEAD RESTAURANT	01691 610255
RAIL STATION, GOBOWEN	01691 681010
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH: Fr Philip Holy Mass Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 10 am	01691 652248
RSPCA Shropshire Branch	07703 567935
SAMARITANS	116 123
SCHOOL – West Felton C E School	01691 610388
SHOP: West Felton Stores	01691 610863
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789000 0345 6789020
Your Shrops Councillor: Steve Charmley email: <a href="mailto:steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk">steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	01691 587958
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: vacant Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
ST. CHAD'S: Chapel Warden: Mrs A Hampson	01691 610845
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Secretary	01691 610357
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: President: Rhian	07375 997 782

Year 32

JUNE 2025

# ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

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# 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 15**

**Pilates Class** Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book online GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904456368

**Tai Chi** Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall

**Badminton** Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall

**Tuesday Tots** Every term time Tuesday 9.15 - 10.30 West Felton School

**Felton Flexors** Wednesday mornings 9:30am to 10:30am Village Hall

**Table Tennis** Thursday 7:30pm Village Hall

**WI** 2nd Thursday of the month 7pm Village Hall

**Short Mat Bowls** contact Glynnis on 610336

**Royal British Legion** 8pm Meeting, **THE PUNCH BOWL** first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

5 June	10-12 noon <b>COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING</b> Village Hall	13
Last 2 weeks of June	<b>CARNIVAL COMMITTEE</b> will be calling house to house collecting goodies for the Tombola and Grand Prize Draw. Bottles, chocolate, biscuits - <i>things YOU would like to win!</i> <i>Please have your bag ready!</i> <b>No bric-a-brac, please.</b>	
14 June	11:00am to 3:00pm <b>SHROPS ARMED FORCES FAMILY DAY</b> , Shrewsbury Castle,	15
14 June	Derwen Fete and Dog Show	35
30 June	7:30 <b>VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>	13
6 July	<b>WEST FELTON CARNIVAL</b>	17
11 Oct	<b>WEST FELTON ARTS &amp; CRAFTS FAIR</b> , Village Hall - book your stall now.	

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The Post Office is located in the entrance lobby  
of the village hall.

Opening time :  
Wednesdays only : 9am until 10:30am.

## Round and About West Felton

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

Last day for submission of copy and  
Deadline for content changes 10th JUNE 2025

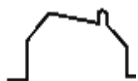
Editor: Colleen Hughes

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: [westfeltonpc@gmail.com](mailto:westfeltonpc@gmail.com) Website: [www.westfeltonparish.co.uk](http://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk)

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

Cllr Alastair FORBES 01691 610 524  
Cllr Mick GREEN 07928 479 305  
Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).  
Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354 (Rep SALC Area Committee).  
Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400  
Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)  
Cllr Neil SUMMERS 07523 318 009  
Cllr David WALKER 01691 897 117  
**Shropshire Councillor Cllr David Walker**

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 11 November 2025

10 June 2025	2025-26	9 December 2025
8 July 2025		13 January 2026
(no meeting in August)		10 February 2026
9 September 2025		10 March 2026
14 October 2025		14 April 2026
		12 May 2026

### To Contact the Parish Council

Clerk – Rosemary Wood – 01939 262881

Email: [westfeltonpc@googlemail.com](mailto:westfeltonpc@googlemail.com)

Website Address - <https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk>

Under the main heading 'Contacts' on first page

click on a named person

and you will be taken to an email contact form to write to them.

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## Report from West Felton Parish Chairman, Cllr John Thornhill

This was the first meeting of our new year. We welcomed two new Councillors Neil Summers and Nick Greene. I hope they enjoy their time with us and am sure from their backgrounds they will make a positive contribution. We also congratulate Councillor David Walker on his election as a Shropshire County Councillor. This now brings us up to our full complement of 11 Councillors.

It was a very business orientated meeting with a number of formal agreements to be made. With a full complement we have now regained our general Power of Competence which provides more flexibility and confidence for us to act in your best interests. We also re-confirmed a range of policies.

We also appointed various councillors to represent you on other important bodies as follows:

West Felton Primary School  
David Curtis

West Felton Village Hall  
Marian Hesketh

SALC Oswestry Area Committee  
David Curtis, Chris Jones

ABP Liaison Committee  
Ed Nicholas

**Conservation Area signs.** We are still

negotiating about the placement of signs despite previous requests. We will continue to press for a site visit to agree the placement of signs and other road safety matters.

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

**Housing Development West Felton.** With regard to last month's report the Clerk received further detailed information. This was fully discussed and Council agreed not to hold a meeting with the developers.

**Punch Bowl.** In the last report I referred to a letter the Council had received from Mark Brown - Managing Director of Trust Inns stating:

*"I am the Managing Director of Trust Inns, the owner of the Punchbowl. Please excuse the directness but I have been given this email address by Sally, the tenant of the pub, to make contact with you in relation to the potential sale of the land at the pub"*

(Continued on page 8)

*(Continued from page 7) Parish Council report to the Parish Council. If there is indeed interest, then I look forward to hearing from you with any proposal."*

The Council replied asking Trust Inns to provide further details of exactly what it is that was being proposed so that members could consider it. We have not received anything further.

**Fox Lane Footpath.** We can report that the concerns about the blocking of a footpath are now resolved.

**Rednal Battery Plant.** Council have received a planning application for the erection of a battery storage plant at Rednal. There was a full discussion and it was agreed to oppose the application for a number of reasons. There was a large amount of documentation, but it was noted that there was no reasoned argument for the construction of such a plant and why that site was appropriate. The scale of the proposed plant was considered significantly large and this would affect site lines and create visual pollution in such a country area. Council considered the real fire risks as other similar plants elsewhere have gone on fire. In these instances, it took some time to extinguish them and the fall out was widespread with real risks of pollution. We will consult with Fire department officials for further advice. Construction would take up to twelve months and members were concerned about the impact

and damage on the Rednal straight road from heavy construction vehicles and cranes over such a long period of time. The plant will operate day and night and the decibel levels indicated in the plan would be continuous and high at all times creating noise pollution. There will be large cooling fans running all the times of day and night but there does not seem to be any relevant or detailed proposal for mitigating sound pollution.

**If you wish to make your own representations then you can do so in the Shropshire Council planning allocations site using the Ref no 25/01250/FUL. The closing date for your views is 28th May 2025.**

**Fox Lane Bus Shelter.** We had received complaints about damage. Our window cleaner has visited the site but cannot establish the cause of the damage but advised that it cannot be repaired. Council has agreed to replace the relevant panel.

**WI Projector.** We have received an email of thanks for the funding of a new projector screen for the Village Hall.

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

*(Continued on page 9)*

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**Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers**

(Continued from page 8) Parish Council years. If any parishioner wishes to renew their training or become an accredited user, please contact our clerk.

**Annual Parish Meeting**, held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7 30pm in the School - report next month.

## COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

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The weekly newsletter is packed with valuable information, including details about free events, networking opportunities, funding notifications, key initiatives, and support opportunities such as one-on-one sessions with business advisors and start-up advice. Subscribers are also alerted to the Growth Hub's 'Let's do business in...' series, an outreach programme where the team and advisors meet the business community face-to-face in market towns.

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Simply specify 'business' when asked for your choices. The newsletter typically goes out on a Tuesday, so if you haven't received it by midweek, be sure



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For more information about the Shropshire Growth Hub, visit

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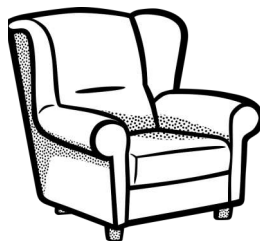


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- **Adorable Alpacas, Circus Workshop** - *booked* ✓
- **Gymnasts, Oswestry Raptors Cheerleaders** - *booked* ✓

**CATERING - WI TEAS** - of course, lots of cake - *booked* ✓

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church@hotmail.com](mailto:cutandcolourbaschurch@hotmail.com)

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**MAONA**  
 Oswestry's  
 new  
 community  
 cinema  
 is opening

**Maona is aiming to open its doors at the start of June at  
 9 Arthur St, Oswestry SY11 1JN (the old Kinokulture venue).**

It'll be a soft opening. The plush seats remain from the old cinema. Other areas like the cafe-bar, the kitchen and so on will all be upgraded as time goes by. But the new proprietor, Tatenda Jamera, wants to get things started, so it'll be a work in progress. To begin with, he's aiming to show films Thursday to Sunday, with a mix of the latest box-office sellers, classics, and independent productions.

The Oswestry Film Society (OFS), which has kept live cinema going in the town on Wednesday nights since the old Kinokulture closed, will continue to be involved in the film scheduling. OFS chairman James Bond said, *"The loyal and enthusiastic audience that's supported us has shown there's definitely a desire for big-screen cinema in Oswestry and round about."*

<https://www.oswestryfilmsociety.com>

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Day	Time	Venue
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	7.45pm	Montford Village Hall
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	7.45pm	Pant Village Hall
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	7.45pm	Llanymynech Village Hall
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	7.45pm	Llanymynech Village Hall
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	2.30pm	Oswestry Senor Citizens Club

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Approved: Quilter Financial Services Ltd and Quilter Mortgage Planning Ltd, July 2024.

## VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE NEWS

**IT WAS MAGIC!** Thanks to the children (and family members) who supported the Jack Dent magic show on 7th March. The event certainly captured the interest and excitement of the young ones (and some of the older attendees also). What a fun event this was.



**BINGO** - Also thanks to all who attended the Easter Bingo on 9th April. As always it was a well attended family event.

**ARTS & CRAFTS** - Looking forward to 11th October we have our annual Craft Fair at the hall, with over 20 tables selling a range of crafted, home made and other products. Certainly a date to put on the calendar with (dare we say it) Christmas following on behind.

**WELCOME to West Felton Village Hall Annual General Meeting** - to be held on the evening of 30th June. Anyone interested in finding out about the work the hall committee undertakes can attend this meeting, and will be made most welcome.

**Thank you to all who continue to support our village hall.**



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*Walk leaders:-*

**Mike Bossen 01691 610623**

**Hilary Iles 01691 610707**

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- ❄ Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir
- ❄ Selection of vintage military vehicles
- ❄ Activities for all ages

- Interactive activities for all the family, from local emergency services, charities and a range of children's activities.
- A line-up of live music throughout the day
- Local food & drink stalls.
- Tours of the Castle, children's activities
- Free SmartWater tagging of military medals.

Other offers to benefit serving personnel, veterans and their families.

**T : 01743 255933**

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**[https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/armed-forces-support/  
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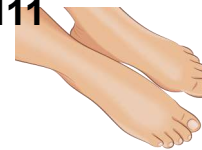
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The function of "Sailing By" on the network is to fill any airtime between the end of the late reading, at approximately 12.45am, and the shipping forecast at 12.48am, which mariners rightly expect to be transmitted precisely on schedule. Very rarely, "Sailing By" might not be played at all because of time constraints.



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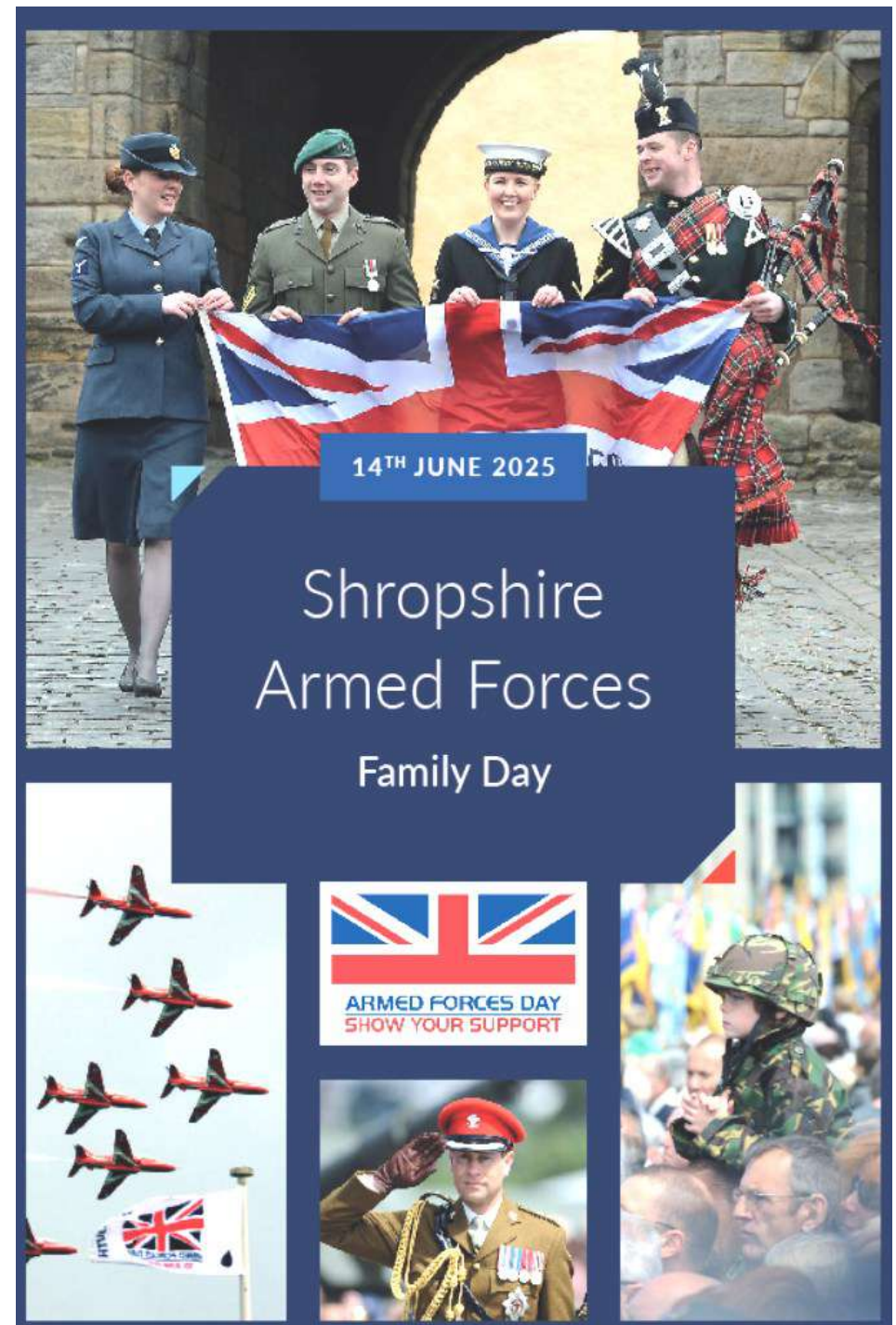
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## Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

### A Real Question

Somebody gave me a book of the 1000 most asked gardening questions, which reminded me of my suspicion as to whether many of the questions in gardening magazines are real or made up, because they often seem so simple. Perhaps the great majority of people who send questions to magazines are complete beginners. It also reminded me of a Which? Article that asked readers what jobs they would give a garden robot if they had one. As you would expect, there was a variety of answers but the one I empathise with is to put the robot on permanent weeding duty. This is perhaps particularly salient for this time of year as it is when weeding can become a rather depressing uphill fight. The other side to the simple questions is the answers, and here I have to say that I do not always agree with the magazine experts.

Also at this time of year, I never know whether to be pleased if we get a long spell of hot dry weather or to be displeased because it will mean a lot of watering. In preparation for this year, I did some rearrangement of hoses which included getting a hose reel rather than having to coil it up after use. This should ease the job if only a little. What stopped me getting a reel years ago? Presumably either a blind spot or expense. Actually, we had to do some watering in the dry spell in April this year which was probably what trig-

gered getting the hose reel.

June is of course when, except in a freak year, it is safe to plant out tender bedding and vegetables, although I admit to starting with courgettes and squash a little earlier if there are no dire forecasts. Inside, I will be planting tomato and cucumber plants and sowing sweetcorn in modules. Outside, it is time to sow runner beans which I do in situ and, if you sowed brassica and leaks in trays, they will probably be ready to be planted out. June is also a good time to sow beetroot and chard. Other jobs include putting support for broad beans, spreading Growmore, taking cuttings and dealing with aphids and caterpillars. After all that work, there will be the pleasure of harvesting the first potatoes.

The so-called June gap is because there can be a shortage of nectar and pollen so that bees have a hard time. From herbs through fruit and vegetables to shrubs the garden can help allay this problem—and we need the bees. It is noticeable that the garden has “thickened” up as shrubs and trees in particular have filled the spaces between leaves and branches. The only bare earth to be seen is probably where there is newly planted bedding or land waiting for vegetables. At the same time, the garden still has a certain freshness and we approach the longest day—make the most of it.●

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



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(See also page 41 "Sailing By".)



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**Derwen  
College**

## Derwen College is gearing up for a day of fun, excitement, and community spirit with its annual **Fête and Dog Show**

**Saturday 14 June  
10am to 4pm**

This year, the College is combining these two beloved events into a one-day event on Saturday, 14 June. Derwen College invites everyone to join in for a family fun day that promises something for everyone. From 10am to 4pm, the campus will be buzzing with activities and entertainment for all ages.

**The dog show** will delight attendees with categories for every pooch, whether they are the most handsome, have the waggiest tail, or are super clever. Entry for the dog show is just £3 per category, so bring along your best buddy and join the fun!



**The grand raffle** with amazing prizes, including a two-night glamping retreat courtesy of Woodland Park Lodges in Ellesmere; shopping and experience vouchers; wine hampers; signed memorabilia; and much more.

**The Duck Race** is back, allowing individuals and sponsoring businesses to pick their ducks and cheer them on as they race down the stream to the finish line.

**The village show-style arts and crafts competitions**, new for 2025, will be held in the College's large Reception area. Catering to all ages, children's categories include vegetable animals and garden in a tray. Other arts and crafts competitions include themed photography, cooking, and crochet. Entry for these competitions is £2.

**Bouncy castle, Derwen-made ice creams, a barbecue, bar, picnic area, tombola, and games;** visitors can also explore the award-winning Marketplace; shop and dine at the Garden Centre and Gift Shop, Vintage Advantage Charity Shop and Walled Garden Café.

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### Who's to provide spiritual sustenance and comforting rituals?

*Michael Davie*

Last month's article related to ways of funding the Church of England, suggesting that processes might change. Times do change and there has recently been an upsurge in interest in Christianity amongst people in their twenties. This interest is more marked in young men than in young women and seems to hold both in America and in England.

Surveys, notably in the Exeter Diocese, have sought to identify what younger people seek in Christianity. Young people have not been brought up with religion. Those now of pensionable age, when young, were often taken to church on a Sunday and this became a habit, much like brushing your teeth in the morning. We sang hymns, listened to a gospel, learnt a bit about what it meant if the sermon was any good, and avoided congratulating the vicar on a good sermon in case we gave the impression that some sermons did not come up to scratch.

Younger people have not had this introduction and their opinions must give rise to anxiety amongst the priesthood. Younger people tend to look for guidance from the New Testament alone. Hardly any survey finds younger people mentioning the Old

Testament. Those that do, regard it as a history of the Jews, and God anyway is not always terribly nice. Instead they look for a loving God, want to enjoy a community spirit and seek Justice in the world. Many of the teachings of Christ resonate with them. The Church's one foundation may be Jesus Christ Our Lord, but to the young, incarnation, death on the Cross and the Resurrection are not matters worthy of attention.

Changes in how people wish to receive a spiritual presence are not a new phenomenon. Earlier articles have highlighted the splits of the Eastern Church, the Reformation and the rise of Methodism. Even Catholicism struggles between the conservatives and the progressives. The late Pope was heard to quip when a 'minder' remonstrated with him for accepting a drink from a pilgrim, suggesting that it might be poisoned, that this would be alright because "it was offered by a pilgrim, not by a Cardinal". Those people who today are seeking spiritual comfort are less concerned with procedure than with Christ's message about how to treat people. The materialism of present day life may have reached a satisfactory level at least in Western society. Poverty is always with us because of the way it is defined, but 19th Century conditions are history.

Young people turning to faith or seek-

*(Continued on page 25)*

## Annual property review

### Are you curious about the value of your home?

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*(Continued from page 31) WI*

indulged in a meal out at a Chinese restaurant in Oswestry, rambled in Shipton (between Much Wenlock and Craven Arms), plotted our West Felton Carnival float entry and planned our annual contribution to the Derwen fete (Sat June 14th.)

Our monthly meeting on May 8th began with our rendition of "Jerusalem" and we warmly welcomed all on the 80th anniversary of V E Day. Many thanks to those in the village who had decorated the hall so colourfully. Our Trading Table (free to members selling items) proved popular, especially the plants and marmalade. It augers well for our biennial September craft and produce show for which preparations are well underway; members will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of competitions varying from the longest home-grown runner bean to a photograph of 'four legs'! Cakes, of course, will be a significant feature! After our business meeting we listened to our speaker from the police force's fraud section who gave us excellent information on the latest scams to look out for and advice on how to protect ourselves from cybercrime. Signing up to West Mercia Police's [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk) is recommended as is always making sure that the latest updates have been installed on devices – and remembering to not allow in anybody who says they are a police officer until you have called 999 to verify their identity.

On a more humorous note we enjoyed the Attfield Theatre's staging of 'Bedside Manners', an entertaining farce. Members also attended our county's annual meeting at Theatre Severn where the keynote speaker was a forensic botanist who delivered an engaging talk titled 'Murder Most Florid'! A lunch at the Old School House near St Oswald's church also took place. We presented a report to the Parish Council looking back on a successful year while our visit to Tedsmore Hall at the end of the month is very much looked forward to.

Forthcoming events in June include the opportunity to listen to Emma Bridgewater at the WI's national annual meeting: her British Ceramics Manufacturing company was founded forty years ago. Our monthly meeting will be outdoors and includes mini golf where members will participate in a tournament or umpire what promises to be a keenly fought contest.

Do get in touch if you would like to attend a meeting and consider joining us. Please contact 07375 997 782.

We meet on the second Thursday of every month (except August) at 7pm in the Village Hall. Visitors: £5. ●



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(Continued from page 23 - Who's to provide ...)

ing spiritual sustenance cite loneliness, lack of feeling of being associated with a community and a desire for people not to be ill-treated, as matters of concern to them. They feel that just doing a job is not fulfilling and that they want more out of life. Although these feelings predated the Covid pandemic, it is likely that for many people the enforced isolation associated with lockdown has led to a mind-set of isolation and then depression. The effect appears to be more marked in males than females. The ability to occupy the mind with computer games reinforces isolation. Before this occupying time with board games or team games did bring people into contact with each other.

How can therefore the Church of today respond? It is likely that there will be less demand for the traditional clergy with a parish, although the pensioner age group and weddings and funerals will need to be considered. Over the years the church, in common with other organisations, has established a ritual of worship for which younger people do not necessarily see a need. Efforts to make the church more accessible to novices have been tried. The Oswestry Rural

Youth Church is a good example. The idea was good, but it failed because there was no structure to carry it on when the leaders left. The hierarchy probably regarded it as an interesting passage and carried on their old ways. Christ was rather savage with the money lenders and overturned the tables in the temple. Should the structure of the church be overhauled? Social workers might be more valuable than ordained clergy – at least in the first instance. Ordained clergy could come in later, once the loneliness had been overcome and a community built, to provide spiritual sustenance. Later, some may find the rituals of Christianity satisfying and comforting.

Back now to last month's article. How will this be funded? The church has always been dependent on the Church Commissioners and the elderly in the congregations. The funds of the former will need re-directing and the latter will need to be looked after by ordained clergy. These same clergy could provide the spiritual sustenance for the youngsters as noted above. This would require clergy capable of doing two very different rôles. Is the church capable of such an upheaval?

●

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*"The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow." This quote, attributed to Nelson Mandela, emphasizes the importance of nurturing and investing in young people, as they will shape the future. It highlights the belief that young people hold the potential to lead and make a positive impact.*

## Remembering VE Day 80 Years On



### **Mrs Mabel Jones, Land Girl, Nurse and organist.**

*Yoland Brown Ruyton XI Towns 2005*

Mable Jones lived in Ironbridge and had planned a career in nursing. However, circumstances at the beginning of the war curtailed this ambition and Mable joined the Women's Land Army.

"I was sent to Baschurch, to Mr. Slater's farm. I lived with the family and my first job was lugging muck with a cart and horse, at that time there was no tractor. It was several weeks before I got any uniform. When it did arrive there were khaki dungarees, Aertex shirts and wellingtons for work, and breeches, green sweater, up to the knee stockings and

brown shoes and overcoat and hat for special occasions. For each year of service we had a triangle red patch to stitch on our green arm band."

"On the farm it was up by 8am, help with the milking, hand done, then breakfast. My job after was to take the milk in churns to Ruyton dairy with pony and float. In the winter when there was ice on the roads we had to fit studs into the pony's shoes. Afterwards I had to work with the men, pitching and loading alternately, hay or corn in season, pulling beet, turnips or mangles or lugging muck, often with two horses. Another job was to start the Tangey engine to pump the water to the house, and in the winter grind the mangles and turnips for feeding the cattle, this was mixed with corn, linseed slabs which had to be ground as well. After harvest, the corn had to be threshed by the visiting thresher, this was a horrible job, especially when it was barley or clover. In winter I had to transport feed for the sheep, often through deep snow, winters were severe then. One year the branches were so frozen they broke off the trees and once, the birds were frozen on the wires.

Mr. Slater at that time, farmed Boreatton Park, since no land could be wasted. I had to take corn up there for the sheep and at that time was driving the float with a very skittish long tailed pony, more used to being ridden. On the way to Boreatton I often met Dame Agnes Hunt being driven to the Orthopaedic from her home at Old Boreatton. She once asked who was driving that 'Flying Wheelbarrow'. ***Thank you, Mable for these evocative memories of a life on the land during World War II.***



**West Felton WI:**

### **April and May meetings and activities**



The new WI year has begun! With some fifty members we continue to be able to undertake a variety of activities such as craft sessions, hosting speakers, competitions and contributing to our community. The Village Hall is invaluable as a venue for our monthly meetings and for our 'Felton Stitch' group.

To contribute to Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' we met with friends to do a productive litter pick around the village donning our hi vis vests and armed with pickers and bags. Did you know that Keep Britain Tidy was originally set up by a conference of 26 organisations in 1955, the initiative coming from the British Women's Institute after it passed a resolution at its 1954 AGM to start a national anti-litter campaign!

At our monthly meeting we welcomed renewing members, new members and visitors, all of us being wonderfully entertained by auctioneer Matthew Tong. He and his wife Vicky run their successful auction house at Rhosymedre near Wrexham. We heard how he was inspired by his relative's collection of pocket watches as a youngster and how he loves the stories behind the items he sells. Matthew kindly judged April's competition 'an interesting old item' particularly admiring a stylish antique bracelet, a cast iron woodpecker match holder and a charming antique child's plate complete with clock numerals so that the toddler could learn how to tell the time while eating their food! Final results of our past year's competitions were revealed having been kept a closely guarded secret. Congratulations to Eileen for accruing the most points for her flowers; to Jo for the most monthly competition points and finally to Gillian who won the cup for the most points overall. Well done!

We have enjoyed making a start on our preparations for the Derwen College annual fete (Sat June 14th), the Carnival (Sun 6th July) and also for Oswestry Show (Sat August 2nd). Even more energetically, some of us took the opportunity for a Spring Ramble with other Shropshire members hosted by Brockton and District, near Much Wenlock. A lunch trip to The Orangery at Derwen College at the end of April gave a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company.

### **May 2025 Meeting**

WFWI members have continued to be active members of the community this month, enjoying each other's company and learning along the way. We have

*(Continued on page 33)*





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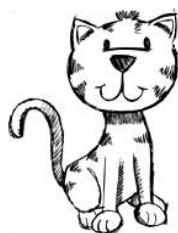
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## Land Girls - Lumber Jills



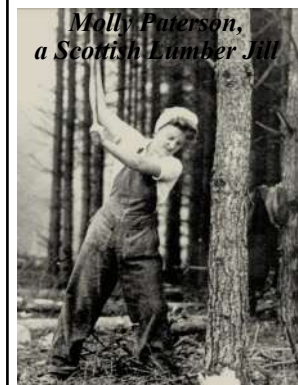
**The Women's Land Army** representatives for Oswestry were Miss A Howes, Woodhill, Oswestry and Mrs Kempster of Oldport Farm, Oswestry.

**The late Mrs Frances Rowley (nee Jones) of Milloon Farm, West Felton, was a land girl;** here she is on the left with her sister, Alice.

**The Women's Timber Corps** was a separate branch of the Women's Land Army started in 1942 due to the German occupation of Norway causing a shortage of imported timber. They were called Lumber Jills. Lumber Jills undertook a range of roles: felling, pole selection, pit-prop preparation, haulage, and sawmilling, measuring, census and stock taking.

**Mrs Dorothy (Dolly) Jones, late of Holyhead Road was a Lumber Jill.**

This branch received even less recognition than the Women's Land Army. The WTC uniform was slightly different. Lumber Jills had a beret instead of a hat and a different arm band. Their badge showed a fir tree, as opposed to the sheaf of wheat for the Women's Land Army. In this type of work, the women worked alongside men who had to teach them everything, from how to chop a tree, through to how to load it onto a lorry. The work didn't just include the wielding of an axe, but also the skilled work of measuring trees and undertaking administrative work out in the forests.



*Molly Paterson,  
a Scottish Lumber Jill*

Lumber Jills worked from 7am to 4:30 – slightly shorter compared to the girls on the fields. However, as part of the interview process, Lumber Jills had to pass a stricter medical examination than Land Girls. They worked in difficult physical conditions and showed strength, skill and stamina. Undertaking what was thought to be 'a man's job', these pioneering women brought gender stereotypes crashing down.



*Frances Jones and her sister Alice*

## REDNAL AEROROME - No. 61 Officer Training Unit

*Yoland Brown, 2005*

Being far from operations in the South and East of Britain meant Rednal was ideally situated as a base for training pilots with a satellite at Montford Bridge.

The aerodrome was so isolated that the RAF had to persuade the Great Western Railway to run a special train each evening to Shrewsbury and arrange for the Paddington-Birkenhead express to stop at Rednal station so that airmen could get back after a night on the town.

The Officer Training Unit (OUT) in the event of an emergency could rapidly be turned into an operational squadron. The only time this occurred was on 27th June 1943 when eight Spitfires were scrambled to intercept a JU 88 which was reported to be over the Irish Sea but, much to their disappointment, no contact was made with the enemy aircraft!

Pilots of many different nationalities attended courses at Rednal, including many who were to become aces, such as Pierre Closterman. Born in Brazil in 1921, **Pierre Closterman** joined the Free French Forces, he trained on Spitfires at Rednal. He had a total of 33 air victories, won during 293 long-range offensive war missions, 97 assault and dive bombing missions and 42 defensive fighter missions.

**The accident rate of the old Battle of Britain planes was very high and mid-air collisions were common.**



Pierre Closterman



*This Memorial to Belgian pilot Jean Noizet is at the entrance to Rednal Airfield*



Wing Commander Wilkerson 27, a passenger on a flight from Rednal, died on 16th September 1944.

He was a survivor of 46 bombing operations as a Halifax pilot.

This well-kept memorial is on the Tedsmore Estate.

## REDNAL AIR AMBULANCE

*Yoland Brown, 2005*

Rednal was selected as a military hospital for the receipt of casualties direct from the battle front. Personnel from the US Army Medical Service were attached to assist with the evacuation. The first C-47 - the 'Model T Ford of the Skies' - arrived from an airstrip in Normandy on 3rd July 1944 and flights went on throughout July. They included wounded German as well as allied personnel. During August, seventy-seven C-47s flew in about 1,750 men before the evacuation ceased.

On the morning of 18th February 1945 an airman found a German prisoner of war sitting in the cockpit of a Mustang on one of the remote dispersals. The German, who had escaped from a camp at Oswestry the previous evening, gave himself up without a fight although he was found to have in his possession a bag of black pepper and a sharp knife.

**On 16th June 1945 the 61 OTU moved to Keevil in Wiltshire.**

Despite their initial misgivings about the remoteness of Rednal, the permanent staff had grown to like the place and were sorry to leave behind their three sports fields - cricket, rugby and football!

After some time as a care and maintenance base, Rednal was sold in 1962. Its very isolation has meant the wartime aerodrome is something of a time capsule, suffering virtually no damage or vandalism.

### C47/DC3 The indestructible Model T Ford of the skies

