

AgeUK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin ext.231	01743 233123
BINS - Waste Management customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk	0345 6789007
CAXTON SURGERY https://www.caxtonsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx	01691 654646
Citizens Advice Bureau, Castle View	03444 991100
CORBET SCHOOL www.corbetschool.net	01939 260296
DIAL-A-RIDE, Volunteer Bureau and Qube Arts centre (main switchboard Osw.Community Action)	01691 656882
ELECTRICITY Scottish Power (Manweb as was)	0800 001 5400
KNOCKIN Medical Practice	01691 682203
NHS Out of Hours Service	111
Orthopaedic Hospital	01691 404000
PARISH COUNCIL email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	
PRADOE CHURCH: Chairman: Andrew Kenyon	01691 610218
PUNCH BOWL	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	0345 6789000
Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789020
Your Shrops Councillor: Steve Charmley email: steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk	01691 587958
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: 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

APRIL 2025

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk



Want to 'Flog it'?

West Felton Village Hall

Saturday 31st May 10:30am to 2pm

Hallmarks

Paul is back in West Felton looking to buy all types of gold or silver jewellery in any condition.

"Rings, wristwatches, pocket watches, chains, brooches, crosses, cufflinks, bracelets, coins etc. We also buy silver items: boxes, charm bracelets, cigarette cases, medals, etc."



FREE VALUATION Paul (07305) 095849

MAKE a DIFFERENCE

**BECOME
A COUNCILLOR**

**WEST FELTON
Parish Council
nominations close
2nd April
Election 1st May 2025**

West Felton
Village Hall Wednesday 9th April,
7pm for eyes down 7:30



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 23
Pilates Class	Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book online GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904456368
Tai Chi	Tuesday 2pm to 3pm, Village Hall
Badminton	Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall
Tuesday Tots	Every term time Tuesday 9.15 - 10.30 West Felton School
Felton Flexors	Wednesday mornings 9:30am to 10:30am Village Hall
Table Tennis	Thursday 7:30pm Village Hall
WI	2nd Thursday of the month 7pm Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	contact Glynnis on 610336
Royal British Legion	8pm Meeting, THE PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

22 March	12 noon - LENT LUNCH the village hall ALL WELCOME	
2 April	LAST DAY FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL	11
3 April	10am COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall	17
9 April	7 for 7:30pm - eyes down EASTER BINGO, Village Hall	19
20 April	9:30am EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE, St Michael's Church	
20 April	10:30am EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE, Pradoc Church	
20 May	7:30pm ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, School Hall	
31 May	10:30-2pm HALLMARKS back in West Felton. Buying gold and silver.	
11 Oct	WEST FELTON CRAFT FAIR, Village Hall	

BOURNE HANDY— Just what many householders need in the Spring— DIY, House maintenance, repairs, gardening, Call Ed Wilson— see page 28.

**WHATS
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Discos/parties	£80	Weddings, all day	£200

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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 APRIL 2025

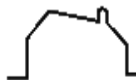
Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

Advertising Rates
for 12 insertions:

Quarter page	£60
Half page	£90
Full page	£150



WEST FELTON STORES

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Saturday: 7:30am - 8pm

Sunday: 10am - 7pm

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West Felton**
9:30am every Sunday

St Chad's, Haughton

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6th April : Family Service
20th April : Easter Sunday Service
with Communion
4th May : Family Service
1st June : Family Service
6th July : Family Service



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WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Office: 5 Newtown Gardens

Baschurch Shrewsbury SY4 2HF Tel 01939 262 881

Email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com Website: www.westfeltonparish.co.uk

Chairman	Cllr John THORNHILL	07714 759 466
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR	07955 232 199
Cllr David CURTIS	01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School & SALC Area Committee)	
Cllr Alastair FORBES	01691 610 524	
Cllr Kerry GROVE	01691 611 776	
Cllr Marian HESKETH	01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).	
Cllr Chris JONES	01691 610 354	
Cllr Pat MABE	01691 610 400 (Rep SALC Area Committee).	
Cllr Ed NICHOLAS	01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)	
Cllr David WALKER	01691 897 117 (Rep Helicopter Noise Group)	
Shropshire Councillor	Cllr Steve CHARMLEY 01691 650 488	

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024-251

8 April 2025 13 May 2025

WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

To Contact the Parish Council

Clerk – Rosemary Wood – 01939 262881

Email: westfeltonpc@googlemail.com

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

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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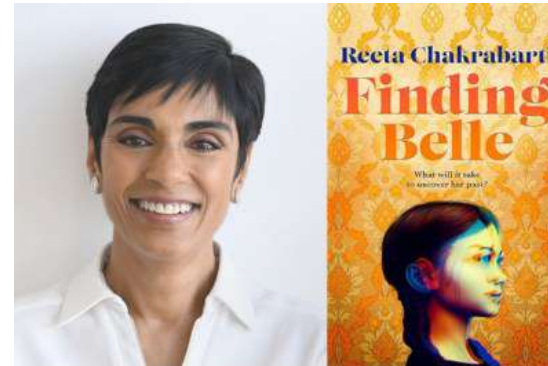
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14th May 2025, 7.00pm
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Join us for an evening with journalist and Chief Presenter for BBC news, Reeta Chakrabarti, as she talks about her career and her debut novel **Finding Belle**.

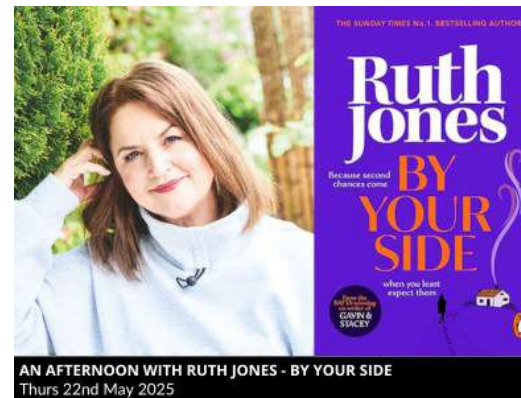
What will it take to uncover her past? A lost child. When Mivvi is young, her mother Belle is a puzzle:...

Tickets: £18 (Admits One and includes a signed copy of Finding Belle) or £28 (Admits Two & includes One signed copy of Finding Belle)

An afternoon with RUTH JONES

Thurs 22nd May - 1.00pm at The Holroyd Theatre, Oswestry

BAFTA winning co-creator of Gavin & Stacey, Ruth Jones returns to Oswestry! We're thrilled to announce an event with much loved actress, screenwriter and bestselling author, Ruth Jones, for her new novel, **'By Your Side'**.



Ruth Jones MBE is best known for her outstanding and award-winning television writing – BBC 1's Gavin and Stacey, in which she played the incorrigible Nessa Jenkins, and Sky 1's Stella. She has numerous other television credits to her name. Now, the author of 'Never Greener', 'Us Three', and 'Love Untold', publishes her new novel, **'By Your Side'** – a joyful and life-affirming story with characters you'll come to know and love.

We can't wait to welcome Ruth back to Oswestry for this afternoon event. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to see her!



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

Report from West Felton Parish Chairman, Cllr John Thornhill

Shropshire Local Plan. Section 3 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that each local planning authority should prepare a Local Plan for its area. The document guides decisions on future development and topics usually covered include housing, employment, setting out what the opportunities are for development in the area and what types of development will and will not be permitted and in which locations. They are at the heart of the planning system and are the main consideration in deciding planning applications. They set the framework in which decisions on particular planning applications are taken locally.

In a recent letter from the relevant inspectors regarding the proposed Shropshire Local Plan it was stated that *'we note that you now accept that work is needed to identify a new strategic employment site allocation for Shrewsbury, and to identify a new allocation(s) to accommodate the proposed 1,500 dwelling and 30ha employment land contributions to the Black Country.'* However it expressed several serious concerns and recommended that the proposed Local Plan be withdrawn and a new one prepared.

The impact of this significant delay is that as there is now no Local Plan and Shropshire Council will have no control to direct the location of development, house sizes, affordability or compel

developers to deliver infrastructure. Planning applications may well increase as developers can go for development anywhere, without limit on the numbers. Our area could now find an increase in applications for developments without any real check on the suitability of them.

Neighbourhood Plan. Council had previously proposed the publication of such a plan, and at our March meeting to wait until there was clarity about the availability of government funding to support development. Such a plan would help us oppose unreasonable applications for development in the Parish in the absence of a Shropshire Local Plan. A working group would be established to prepare the proposals for this development and must include members of the community who are not Councillors. If any member of the Parish would be willing to join such a group then please let the Clerk know.

Planned Road Resurfacing. Council received a letter indicating proposals to resurface Mains Street, Queens Head. We responded but saying we welcome resurfacing work but questioned why that stretch of road had been chosen when there are far worse roads in the area with deep potholes particularly the Queens Head to Rednal straight. We await a response.

Conservation Area signs. We are still negotiating about the placement of signs despite previous correspond-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

ence. We will continue to press for a site visit to agree effective placements and discuss other matters.

Community Speed Watch. In the Police Report to March Council our Police Liaison Officer states 'I have not received any further requests to join the scheme.' We still need volunteers to enable this scheme to be fully effective. If you would be interested please let the Clerk know. The report also included results of a speed survey in Queens Head which stated – 'The average speed was under 30mp (just)! The majority of those spoken to regarding being over the limit were coming from West Felton into Queens Head and were **ALL FROM THE VILLAGE**. This time it was education rather than prosecution as I was on my own. Next time it might be the speed camera van or motorbike which is even harder to spot.'

Green GEN Cymru The Council discussed the project to set up electric power lines near the village. It was agreed that a response to the consultation should be made to cover:

- i. the exact location of the Sub Station to ensure minimum disruption to towns and villages in Shropshire;
- ii. the fact Government subsidies will be paid out they will not be given to Shropshire even though the Pylons and lines may well be within Shropshire County boundaries;
- iii. serious consideration be given to the necessity to use more underground installations to avoid damag-

ing the environment;
iv. the fact that changes to the design of the proposed pylons to reduce height would mean the maximum voltage carried by these smaller pylons would be reduced. This would lead to the need for a second run of pylons to carry the load with further adverse impact on the environment within Shropshire.

Bins, street lights and VAS sign. We have received the following letter from a local resident:

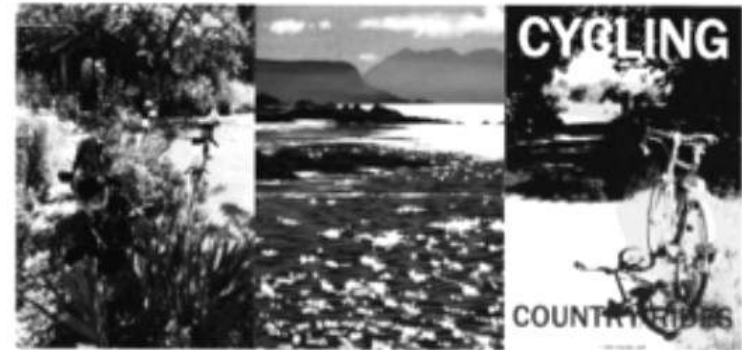
"I would like to highlight the rubbish which seems to be increasing in and around the hedgerow and footpath from Queens Head to West Felton. Could we have any more litter bins? places for example at the junction of Twyford road and the large lay-by coming into West Felton would certainly help with this situation as we only have ONE litter bin in Queens Head by the bus shelter.

Also street lighting. Majority of the lights are white however there's ONE that is blue any reasons for this? as its not in keeping with the rest of the hamlet and can be very distracting. And last but not least, the speed awareness sign. When will this be fixed? We have noticed PCSO Mabe a few times over the weekend traffic calming which was great to see however this has been a rare occasion and the speed awareness sign did deter traffic. The above are valid points to consider in keeping our hamlet a cleaner, safer, place to live in and I hope

(Continued on page 9)

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(Continued from page 8)

something can be put in place to help as soon as possible."

The Clerk has responded to this letter and Council discussed it. We will keep it an eye on this situation but it may not be pedestrians dropping the litter. We are aware that a considerate parishioner does go out around that area picking up the rubbish. Can I, on behalf of the Council, thank him very much for his thoughtfulness and community spirit. The Women's Institute also has litter collecting kits if anyone else wishes to become involved.

As regards the blue light this was raised last November with the contractor and the Clerk has already sought an update. It is the duty of Shropshire County to fix the speed sign at Queens Head and is apparently on their work schedule. Our Clerk has chased it up several times without any action.

Flooding in West Felton. The Council wrote to John Bellis of Shropshire Council to express unease regarding continued flooding. As reported last month a response was received which stated 'Shropshire Council are aware of

the flooding. Following the last event our tanker team jetted the highway drain under Holyhead Road which appeared to clear a blockage which then drained the flood. We are now looking to arrange a CCTV survey of this section of drain to see if there is a defect causing the issue. I believe this is programmed for next week. (12th – 16th Feb)' We responded asking for the outcome from this survey but have not received any response.

Football Pitch. We have responded to a letter received late January from Bal-fours re the land for the football pitch but are still awaiting a reply.

Footbridge over A5 at Fox Lane. We have received information that yet another parishioner has slipped on the bridge at Fox lane. We had contacted Shropshire Council to ask them to implement the promise they gave five years ago to re-surface it but have not received any response so far.

Annual Parish Meeting. It is proposed to hold this meeting on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7:30pm in the School. We had invited the local MP, Helen Morgan, to attend, but she has now said she is unavailable due to Parliamentary Business.▪

Royal Mail has announced. . .

The cost of a first-class stamp will rise by 5p to £1.70 on 7 April, and the price of a second-class stamp will rise by 2p to 87p on the same day.



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RESIDENTS URGED TO CONSIDER MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Shropshire residents are being encouraged to consider making a difference and stand to become a parish councillor in their local community as nominations open for this year's parish elections on 1st May.

Councillor Ray Wickson (Chairman of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils) said today: *"Are you passionate about your local community? Do you want to contribute to its future, help shape decisions, and make a positive impact? Becoming a parish councillor is your chance to make a difference in your village or town."* He added: *"On May 1st Shropshire votes to elect its parish and town councils for the next four years. There is a parish or town council in every community across Shropshire. Our Councils are at the heart of your local community and despite the challenging times, do some great work. Parish councils are the first tier of local government here in Shropshire and provide an important voice for communities. As a parish councillor, you'll have the opportunity to represent the needs and aspirations of residents, tackle local issues, and work on projects that truly make a difference. From improving community facilities to addressing environmental*



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concerns, councillors are at the forefront of making their communities better places to live, work, and visit. Together, let's build a stronger, more vibrant community. Take the first step today and become a parish councillor—because your voice matters, go on make a difference in your local community!"

What Do Parish Councillors Do?

- Represent residents' views and make decisions on their behalf.
- Influence changes and developments in the local area.
- Support initiatives that enhance the well-being of the community.
- Manage budgets for local services and projects.
- Collaborate with local organisations, councils, and groups to address issues.

Who Can Become a Parish Councillor?

You don't need special qualifications—just a genuine passion for your community and a willingness to learn. Parish councils' welcome people from diverse backgrounds and experiences. If you care about your community and want to make a difference, you have what it takes to be a councillor.

Why Should You Consider It?

Being a parish councillor is an incredible

(Continued on page 13)

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**Derwen
 College**

Derwen College specialist further education college in Gobowen, is asking runners, joggers and walkers to take on a 10km Challenge to raise money to support students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Get set for the Derwen College 10km Challenge! Saturday, 5 April

Students, staff and supporters are gearing up for Derwen College 10km Challenge, which sees the community come together, in Gobowen, for an inclusive event celebrating fitness and fundraising.

On Saturday, 5 April, the college will host the event which sees participants tackle 10km in their own way to raise money for Derwen Charity. Entrants can run, jog, walk, skip or wheel a scenic route which starts and finishes at the specialist college in north Shropshire, winding through local country roads along the way. The charity is urging local runners, walkers and supporters to make it their new year's resolution to sign up for this fun fundraiser.

Participants will start from Derwen College's Gobowen campus site at 10am. Entry is £10 and will include a medal and goodie bag. Derwen Charity sports t-shirts will be available to buy separately at sign-up and on the day.

Shorter distance options are available for those who can't complete 10km. Families and supporters who are unable to take part, have the opportunity to sponsor a student. All students will be encouraged to get involved on the day and in the week running up to the challenge. There will be options to complete 1km every day in a variety of ways, including swimming, rowing, cycling and running.

For those attending the main event on Saturday, check-in opens at 8.30am, with registration and sign-in closing at 9.45am. There will be a group warm-up led by sports staff before the countdown at 10am.

Dogs are welcome, and local running groups are encouraged to come along for a fun run. It's a friendly, no-pressure event, making it the perfect introduction to a 10km distance.

Money raised will go to Derwen Charity towards accessible sports equipment for Derwen College students and clients. There is plenty of free parking, and Derwen Marketplace will be open, offering refreshments, and shopping opportunities for participants and their families. Find out more or sign up today at www.derwen.me/10kmChallenge2025.

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Oswestry Talking Newspaper needs your help!

OTN is a charity, run by volunteers, which provides a free weekly recording of sections of The Advertiser for anyone who is blind or partially sighted.

To keep running this important service we are looking for help with the distribution of the recordings. This entails 1 to 1 ½ hrs on a Thursday afternoon once or sometimes twice a month.

You will need to be confident using a computer (nothing too technical!) and sometimes transport to collect or deliver the recordings to the Oswestry Sorting Office.

If you think you might be able to help we would love to meet you.

Please phone Carol Fahey on 07929709467

or Celia Todd on 07706077046

Oswestry Talking News (OTN) is a registered charity and its purpose is to provide relief for those suffering from visual impairments or some temporary or permanent incapacity or disability which makes reading a strain. OTN provides an audio version of local news and information taken from our local papers and magazines. Email us at oswestrytn@outlook.com

It is a free service and uses free postal delivery provided by Royal Mail.

(Continued from page 11) making a difference

bly rewarding experience. Not only will you gain valuable skills such as teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving, but you'll also leave a lasting legacy in your community. It's your chance to bring your ideas to life, address pressing local concerns, and work collaboratively with others who share your vision.

How to Get Involved

Nominations for the West Felton Parish Council election are now open. If you're interested in standing as a candidate or learning more about the role, please contact your Rosemary Wood (Parish Clerk) or visit the Shropshire Association of Local Council's [website](#) or Shropshire Council's website [Local Elections 2025](#).

Nominations opened on 10th March and close at 4pm on 2nd April.

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(Continued from page 41) WFWI

ballet 'Cinderella' in Birmingham with our county organisation, SFWI (Shropshire Federation of Women's Institutes).

March's meeting: Thursday 13th Speaker: Graham Short, Micro Engraver. West Felton looks forward to welcoming members from Gobowen, St Martin's, Whittington and Oswestry to this annual Oswestry North Group Open Meeting.

April's meeting: Thursday 10th We look forward to hearing all about auctions and valuations from Matthew of Tong's Auction House.

Monthly meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Village Hall. Visitors £5. Please contact us on 07375997782. ♦

Coming to Oswestry Film Society CONCLAVE

The Oswestry Film Society is delighted to be able to bring you the suspenseful BAFTA (and soon perhaps Oscar) no.1 film CONCLAVE. Ralph Fiennes is exceptional as, behind locked doors, cardinals from around the world meet to vote in a new Pope - holy men, but all have their own agendas.

Wed Apr 2 (7.30pm)

at our regular and welcoming venue,
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MAONA CINEMA

The reopening of the old Kinokulture community cinema in Oswestry could be "soon". Fund-raising to enable this to come about continues. Please help if you can, every pound is welcome - check out

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and search 'Oswestry'

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Update from
West Felton

Village Hall Committee

Our hall continues to be well used throughout the weekdays, evenings and at weekends for parties and special occasions.

It is so pleasing to see that this village asset continues to be so well supported. We have the Easter Bingo coming up on 9th April, and this is always a hall filler.

Looking forward, we have set the date of Sat 11th October for our next Craft Fair, so all crafters can plan this in their calendars, and get busy crafting.

The committee is pleased to advise all hall hirers that there will be no increase to the hiring charges for 2025.

Wishing all a Happy Easter. *Don't forget Easter Bingo, 9th April!*



It was Magic!!

Friday, 7th March saw more than 100 children and adults fill the Village Hall for a children's magic show given by Jack Dent.

The Committee organised this event specifically for the younger children in the village - we did not put it on as a fund raiser.

The tickets were priced so that no child in the village should be excluded.

(In fact this year the village hall made a loss on this event - as we have done once in the past for a similar event.)

But the reward was seeing the children (and the accompanying parents and grandparents) joining in - shouting, laughing and just generally having a good time. For an hour the noise levels inside the hall were almost deafening!

**It really was a magical event,
and thanks must go to Jack for a magical evening!**

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WFWI: February's meeting and activities



Colour brightened a dull, grey Saturday when members spent an absorbing afternoon learning about glass with Ally Browning aka Ally Glass. We're looking forward to seeing how our crafted pendants turn out once they are fired at Ally's studios in Fitz.

At our monthly meeting we remembered Mrs Dorothy Barnes, past president and long serving member of WFWI, who passed away recently. Condolences have been sent to her family.

Members reported on an excellent evening at Trefonen WI where a powerful theatrical presentation of the life of Wilfred Owen was given by Shaun Higgins. "I felt as if I was there with him on the battlefield".

We welcomed our speaker Claire Tatler, now Head Gardener at Wollerton Old Hall, who spoke so knowledgeably about 'Gardening in Historic Places'. She drew on her experiences at Combermere Abbey near Whitchurch, gardens near Ludlow and The Weir Garden in Hereford (National Trust), illustrating how the approach to gardening and planting responds to the history of the property and its demands. Spring felt that much closer and we look forward to visiting those properties in the future with a new perspective.

Claire kindly judged our competitions: flower of the month 1st Marian : 2nd B : 3rd Aly S.

Poem: 'You're The One For Me' :1st Jo L : 2nd Marian : 3rd Aly S.

Details were shared advising members to check their National Insurance records as the deadline for 'topping up' contributions ends in early April. FUTURE PENSION CENTRE: 0800 7310175 - according to the article they can tell you if making these contributions will increase your entitlement as regards the state pension.

Many thanks to Pat for all her efforts with the raffle and to this month's hostesses for providing very welcome tea, coffee and cake. We closed the meeting as usual by singing 'God save The King', one of the oldest national anthems in the world.

Our special interest groups continue with Felton Stitch meeting monthly to sew away and with the Book Club encountering many a new author's stories; our upcoming read is 'Great-Uncle Harry' by the more familiar Michael Palin. We also managed an evening outing to 'The Dog' at Ruyton to enjoy their tasty food and drink. Members have also had the opportunity to attend a performance of the

(Continued on page 43)



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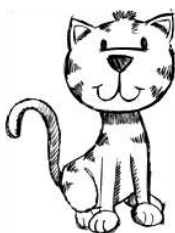
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(Continued from page 37) Safeguarding

legal advisers to the church were of the opinion that an independent body would make it difficult for the Church to follow Charity law. Charities have to be responsible for their own behaviour including Safeguarding. This realisation led to the adoption of the first option. It also caused the hearts of church people outside the synod to miss a beat.

The implementation of Safeguarding by the Church of England has had significant effects on church members. All members of the parochial church council have to undergo safeguarding training. Much of this is largely common sense. The definition of abuse however is quite wide and the knowledge of possible abuse places an obligation on that person to alert a safeguarding officer. Each Benefice has a safeguarding officer and there is a Diocesan team as well. It is realised that any accusation must be investigated to avoid any damage to individuals or the organisation. Such a procedure is worthwhile, but there are shortcom-

ings. People are increasingly reluctant to take on responsible posts. Clergy are fearful of visiting lest they be accused of abuse. From this follows the complaint that people never see their clergy. The problem will exacerbate come 2030 when individual parishes each becomes a charity. This clears up an oversight when the Charity commission was set up. Parishes were overlooked, but became charities outside the Commission. What this means in practice is that PCC members will become liable for safeguarding indiscretions. Whereas the Church now pays compensation, the individual PCCs may be liable. Hence the missed heart beat as people considered how this might be handled.

Although safeguarding receives much attention at present, it may signify that a more profound change is required in the way that the Church of England operates. It may need to become a more professional organisation, more attuned to serve the requirements of the people it seeks to attract.▪

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Village Hall

Wednesday
9th April

Entrance: £2 per person

Doors open from 7pm with eyes down
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The dates for consultation extend until 16 April.
Materials explaining the updated proposals are published on the
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A detailed map of the alignment is also available.

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SAFEGUARDING

Michael Davie

To say that religious organisations have trouble with safeguarding is to understate the problem. In America alone it is estimated that the Catholic Church has paid out about \$3 billion to people affected by clerical abuse

The history of child protection could be said to have started in the 19th Century. In the 1830's various Factory Acts were introduced, often linked with Antony Ashley Cooper, later 7th Earl of Shaftesbury. These prevented the employment of children, initially under 9yr but later increased, from working in factories or mines. Almost 200 years ago a 12 hr day was the maximum. Today children cannot take on a full time job until the age of 16yr and then only 40hr per week are allowed.

Prevention of child abuse came on the scene rather later, the first report coming in 1945 following the death of a child at the hands of his foster father. This led to changes in fostering legislation. It wasn't until 1973 following the death of another child that child protection as we know it today started to be implemented. Since the millennium, reports have multiplied with over 20 appearing in the last 25 years. Along with abuse of children, abuse of women and to a lesser extent men has become more widely publicised. It is important to emphasize 'publicised' since such behaviour was

previously swept under the carpet.

Religious faiths have not been immune from such behaviour. It is important to note that abuse has been noted not only in Christian churches, but in other religions as well. Christian churches have however had the greatest publicity. They have in the past not helped themselves by failing to acknowledge that such behaviour exists. One report relates that a mother complained to a vicar that a member of the church had abused her child. She was told that the child must be making it up since the said individual was a worthy and valued member of the church.

Somewhat belatedly churches, including the Church of England, have started to set up Safeguarding procedures which have had both positive and negative effects. The Church of England recently debated how a new Safeguarding system should be set up. There were two alternatives. One proposed that the Church would have a safeguarding team that the Church owned. The other suggested that the Church would pay for an entirely independent safeguarding team with no association with the church. The debate continued for several hours with the Bishop in charge of safeguarding speaking in favour of the independent solution. This option was also strongly favoured by those who had been the subject of abuse. At this point the spectre of the Charity Commission settled over the whole debate. The

(Continued on page 39)

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Older persons may be particularly vulnerable as they rely on their phones for contact and companionship, so it is helpful to make elderly relatives aware of the dangers of cold callers.

These calls involve fraudsters trying to gain your personal and financial information, and are often referred to as "Vishing" – an amalgamation of "Voice" and "Phishing".

Very often the fraudster has disguised their call identity by using an apparently legitimate number so appearing genuine; this is known as "Spoofing". **If you do receive a call from a company which is not expected then just hang up, and do not engage with that caller.**

Common Phone Call Scams

Technical Support scams - They may impersonate a company such as Microsoft or BT, and tell you there is a fault on your computer or Broadband. They then probably will ask you to download remote access software to gain access to your computer, or else install Malware on your computer.

Impersonation Scams - Typically these may claim to come from your "Bank Fraud Department" telling you that your account or bank cards have been compromised and you need to transfer money to another so-called Safe Account, from where it vanishes. Similarly, calls may come from fraudsters masquerading as a Police Officer, Utility Provider, HMRC or DVLA.

Prize Draw Scams – "You have won the Lottery or a Prize Draw!" Sounds good but is it? You may think you never entered the competition but they will convince you that you have, then ask for your bank details so you can "receive" the prize.

Financial Scams – you are called with tempting offers for investing your money in funds, schemes or perhaps in Bitcoins with the promise of huge returns. Since 2019, it has been illegal to make cold calls to sell Pension schemes, so any calls about Pension Schemes will be scams. This scheme may be extended in the future to ban any unsolicited financial cold call.

(Continued on page 23)




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**Our local PCSO Kurt Mabe writes to let us to know about the
Safer Neighbourhood Team's new Facebook account called
OSWESTRY and ELLESMERE POLICE.**

Kurt says, "You will find good news and reports of what we are doing as a team for you in your areas." In his recent post Kurt reported that he spent a sunny hour and a half in Queens Head conducting speed surveys. It is a 30 MPH section of road and the majority of drivers were keeping within the limit. He did have to speak to a few drivers. That day was about education rather than handing out speeding fines. Everybody was very receptive and promised to refrain from doing the same again.

"I also managed to have a chat with some of the local residents who were very thankful for my presence and the calming effect of the car and speed radar. Please like and follow us on this new page. Come along, say hi, join the page and spread the word.

Kind regards, Kurt Mabe, Oswestry rural south SNT"

oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk Oswestry police station, Park Street,
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**For Easter Day
church Services
see What's On,
page 2**

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(Continued from page 21) Fraud

How can you stay safe?

Never give out your financial information over the phone, and just hang up if you are unsure about the caller's identity

Register for "TPS" - Telephone Preference Service - this prevents bona fide companies cold calling you, so you will then know that any cold call is a fake.

Many modern landline handsets have a "Call Blocking" feature so unwanted numbers can be added to the list of Blocked Callers

Similarly many phone service providers can offer other call blocking services such as BT Call Guardian

Scammers will often keep the phone line open after the call so even when you think you are calling a legitimate number you are still speaking to the fraudster. Wait for up to 15 minutes or make the call using a different phone line or mobile.

Please feel free to share these messages with friends, relatives, neighbours.



West Felton Walking Group

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Care Quality Commission **healthwatch** Shropshire

Share for Better Care

You can make a difference
Spare 3 minutes of your day to tell us your experience of health and social care services.
Share your views with us on 01743 237884
enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk
www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk





scan me

We wanted to reach out and invite you to support our upcoming initiative, the Share for Better Care campaign.

We have joined the campaign, organised by the Care Quality Commission and Healthwatch England, aiming to encourage more people to share their feedback to drive improvements in health and care.

This campaign is all about getting people to share their experiences with health and social care services.

Did you know that 60% of folk haven't shared feedback about their health and social care experiences? But, just three minutes of feedback can really help us improve the quality of care across Shropshire.

We need your help to spread the word about how important this is!

Please share this email with friends, family and your wider community so they can help us improve the quality of care.

Kind Regards

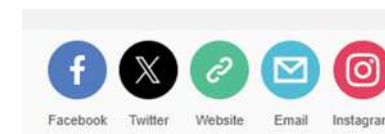
The Healthwatch Shropshire Team

<https://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/share-your-views>

The campaign is supported by: The Race Equality Foundation, National Dignity Council, Royal Association for Deaf people, National Voices, The Challenging Behaviour Foundation, The Patients Association, VoiceAbility, Disability Rights UK.

Our mailing address is:

Healthwatch Shropshire, 4 The Creative Quarter
Shrewsbury Business Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6LG



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Local elections will be held in the
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lors for Shropshire Council and for
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Get in touch:

Located in West Felton, Oswestry
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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Here is Spring

I have no doubt that we are experiencing climate change that includes warming. However, the swings and roundabouts of our weather are such that we do not experience a uniform trend. This year there were reports of the warmest month ever and Which? Gardening ran an article that suggested that Spring was getting earlier, although there were signs that the rate of change was slowing. One personal experience this year points to the opposite—our apricot was a good week later to come into flower this year than last year. Presumably a swing or roundabout. Nevertheless, by April we can reasonably expect that Spring will be well and truly sprung and most things in the garden will have started into life. Having nothing to do with that except that it has woken up after the winter is that our Black Hamburg vine is 50 years old this year. Not quite sure how to celebrate that.

Our garden generally is of an age when every winter there is a list of oversize shrubs and trees that need severely cutting back or removing. Among the sacrifices this last winter was a very old and very large *Berberis atropurpurea*. It started with a severe cutting back but developed into complete removal. Only those who have removed a very large *berberis* will know the difficulty. First, any tree or shrub is always a lot bigger after cutting down than it appeared when intact. Secondly, a *berberis* pre-

sents the problem that it combines being very prickly with the branches knitting together to form a sort of giant spiky bird's nest. Demolition started with a chain saw and then went through stages of hedge trimmer, loppers and secateurs before it was reduced to bonfire sized pieces. I won't be removing another one in a hurry.

There are quite a lot of seeds that get sown in April, starting with more annuals such as Dahlia, nicotiana, calendula and cosmos that will be started in tray inserts indoors. Also to be sown indoors are tomatoes, cucumbers, courgette and squash. Outdoors, I will be continuing with more potatoes, radish, watercress and broad beans. Later in the month there will be swede, while I prefer to sow sprouts and sprouting broccoli in tray inserts in a cold frame. In fact, it could be argued that there are not a lot of things that cannot be sown in April.

A major job at the beginning of the month is to scarify and treat the grass with lawn sand start regular mowing and feeding. Two things I couldn't do last year at this time was strim the grass on the river bank and uncover the gunnera because they were still under water from winter flooding. I hope that is not repeated. If you keep your brassica plants under netting as I do then it is time to clear the remains of last year's crop and set the frame in its new location.▪

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



PC Mark
Wright
07977 957689



PCSO Stuart
Carroll
07970 544372



PCSO Kurt
Mabe
07870 219669



PC Mark Wright M: 07977 957689 Direct Dial: 101.

PCSO Kurt Mabe 07870 219669

PCSO Stuart Carroll M: 07970 544372 | Direct Dial: 101 Ext. 7704043

Team email: oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk

OSWESTRY RURAL SOUTH Safer Neighbourhood Team,
West Mercia Police, Oswestry Police Station, Park St, Oswestry, SY11 2HE.

These personal mobile numbers/email addresses can be used to gain quick contact with our local policing team **BUT are not to be used to report new incidents**. All incidents must be reported on either of the two numbers: 101 in the case of non-emergency and 999 for emergencies.

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111

Twitter: @OsCops

Non emergency number : 101 web: www.westmercia.police.uk

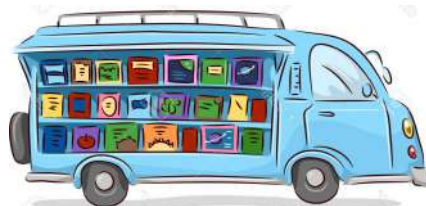
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News from
the Carnival
Committee

Sunday 6th July

West Felton

FAMILY CARNIVAL



The Committee meetings are revving up now, bookings being made for entertainers and providers of food and drinks; Taking bookings for stalls - all art and craft makers welcome, cakes and produce, interesting gift items.

What do we need?

FLOATS - Reminder to all village groups, have you decided on yours?	✓
MUSIC - Porthywaen Band , always popular - <i>booked</i> . Os Rocks – a PopRock choir from Oswestry, a community choir with an emphasis on fun - <i>booked</i> . <i>More to be confirmed.</i>	✓ ✓
ENTERTAINMENT - the children love the donkey rides - <i>booked</i> <i>Loads more to be confirmed. Possibly some great MAGIC!!</i>	✓
CATERING - WI TEAS - of course, lots of cake - <i>booked</i> .	✓
BURGERS, CHIPS , and other crowd pleasers - <i>to be confirmed</i>	
BAR - Beer and soft drinks - of course, <i>booked</i> .	✓
GRAND DRAW tickets ordered - who will be the lucky winner this year?	✓

We will continue to tick the boxes - will you come and help?
 All welcome to contribute to your big village day in July.

Calling all
CARNIVAL STALL HOLDERS
 Bookings now being taken
 £15 per stall
 Phone Eileen 01691 610629

