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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
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SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	0345 6789000
Anti-Social Report Line	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
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: President: Rhian	07375 997 782

Year 32

DECEMBER 2025

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON



www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

Supporting local business - Supporting the community

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Community Carol Concert Everyone welcome

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at St Michael's
Parish Church
Featuring
West Felton
School Choir

3pm Sunday
14th December

Tea/Coffee
mince pies

Parish Council Second Tues of the month, 7:30 School Hall

West Felton Walkers 10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT...see page 45

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 INFORMAL MEETINGS 8pm Meeting, PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

28th Nov	6pm CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON - Alma Close	
4th Dec	10=12 COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING Village Hall	19
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10th Dec	7pm VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS BINGO	19
13th Dec	5pm leaving Oswestry ILLUMINATED TRACTOR RUN.	39
14th Dec	3pm COMMUNITY CAROLS St Michael's Church, with WF School. EVERYONE WELCOME. Refreshments	31
18th Dec	2:30pm CHRISTINGLE West Felton School. All welcome.	13
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24th Dec	4pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE Whittington Church	13
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What's new?

Leaton Forest - Logs, Christmas Trees, Wreath making workshops see page 28, 29

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Round and About West Felton

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

Last day for submission of copy and
deadline for content changes
10th DECEMBER 2025

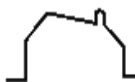
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St Michael's, West Felton

9:30am every Sunday
unless otherwise stated,

- **Sunday 7th December, 4:00pm** Traditional Carol service with Packwood choir.
- **Sunday 14th December, 3:00pm** Community carols & readings.
- **Wed. 24th December 6:00pm** Christmas Eve Service with Communion.

St Chad's, Haughton

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- **SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER 4PM CAROL SERVICE.**

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Dr Michael Davie 01691 610 612

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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 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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 10 February 2026

9 December 2025

10 March 2026

13 January 2026

14 April 2026

12 May 2026

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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Report from West Felton Parish Chairman,
Cllr John Thornhill

Neighbourhood Plan - Council discussed this very important issue again, weighing the various arguments for and against. In the previous issue I set out the value of having such a plan for our parish, one of which is that it carries legal weight in deciding planning applications. It is a community-led document that provides a vision for future housing development in a local area, allowing residents to influence where new homes can be built. These plans are created by local communities rather than the planning authority and become part of the Shropshire Council Local Plan. It is a requirement that non-council members be part of the Planning Team so is if you are interested in being involved them please contact myself or our Clerk. It was agreed to hold a public meeting on a Saturday afternoon in January and once we have the date this will be communicated to you. At that meeting there will be full debate about the plan setting out how the plan is created and the time

and involvement expected from members of the parish.

We have also received information about how we might be able to fund the project from local funds provided to us, given that government is no longer awarding grants of up to £10,000 centrally.

Defibrillator training - Council were delighted with the very positive response and to hear that 25 members of the parish attended the training recently. I am pleased that we now have so many able to use the facility should it be necessary. Thank you to those who came forward.

Parish School event - We were pleased to receive a lovely picture and note from the pupils of the school in response to our donation for the Summer Slide activity this year which said; *‘Thanks to your very kind donation, more than 50 children took home a book to keep, listened to a wonderful story teller and enjoyed our summer picnics. Be-*

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

yond that you have helped secure a life-long love of reading.'

Playing field and dog fouling - We received the following letter from a parishioner. *'It was very disappointing today when I took my grandchildren to the play-ground to see a load of dog dirt on the grass. I presume the owner was walking around the path and the dog (large judging by the quantity) doing his business and clearly did not bother to clear up. There needs to be much larger signs on all of the entrances banning dogs from being taken to the field as the very small one obviously is not noticeable enough. Very disappointing dog ownership.'*

Council has agreed to place larger signs indicating that dogs must not be taken or allowed onto the playing field unless they are support dogs, when they should be on a lead and any fouling cleaned up. We courteously ask dog walkers to respect this amenity which is for parishioners and children to enjoy and play on without being soiled in this way.

Shropshire Council report - David Walker provided an update on matters relevant to the Parish

Council and our parishioners in relation to budget matters. He outlined how the teams of officers at headquarters have been considerably reduced and this means there are fewer people involved in decision making and available to support parish activities. This reduction may continue with an impact on a number of our proposed developments. These will include our proposals to react to the concerns of parishioners in regard to speeding, lighting on The Avenue, siting of Conservation signs and Tree Protection Order applications. A number of items were reported as waiting for a response and/or action from the Council. He also reported that £2.3 million of Council Tax had not been paid or recovered, with again a likely adverse impact on parish funds.

Grants - If you wish to make an application for a grant from the Parish Council these will need to be submitted by 31 Dec 2025 for this year.

Police Report - The Report for the local police also referred to 'Emerging trends - Requests for information.' It reported the following: *'A male attended a proper-*

(Continued on page 9)



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ty in the village and asked for the **Lord Lieutenant** – I met recently with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for this area, Gill Hamer. There are thirty two DLLs who are the local representatives of the monarchy. We discussed a wide range of matters including how those who volunteer for local activities can be appropriately recognised. If you think there is anyone in the parish who is in such a position please contact me and let me know the details which I will then pass on.●

have any data left on his phone, for this area, Gill Hamer. There are thirty two DLLs who are the local representatives of the monarchy. We discussed a wide range of matters including how those who volunteer for local activities can be appropriately recognised. If you think there is anyone in the parish who is in such a position please contact me and let me know the details which I will then pass on.●

Please be vigilant in such circumstances and report anything unusual to the local police team.

Notification of Road Closure -

HEATH HOUSES JUNCTION TO HARP FARM JUNCT WEST FELTON -

13th to 15th January 2026 - STW Ref 6737828

Purpose: Road Closure - New Water Connection

Works Promoter: Severn Trent Water

Works Promoter Ref: LB9225201-000006737828-01

Enforcement pattern for Unnamed road, Rednal, West Felton: All the time.

You can view the closure and diversion route here:
<https://one.network/?tm=GB146348349>

**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.**

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

Following the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) review by councilors and officers from other councils an improvement board has been setup to help drive change. This board met recently for the first time. Another CPC recommendation was to take a deep dive into council finances. This deep dive has revealed a shocking state of affairs, putting the financial position of the Council in greater jeopardy. Shropshire Council has been forced to ask for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The EFS is a loan that will need to be repaid. Given the dire predicted year end, Shropshire Council has asked the government for in-year support and support for the next financial year.

Overall, the lack of fair government funding that recognises the high costs of an older rural population, exacerbated by year upon year upon year of undelivered savings has brought Shropshire Council to its knees. Many councils are struggling to balance their books but Shropshire Council is in a particularly bad position. The deep

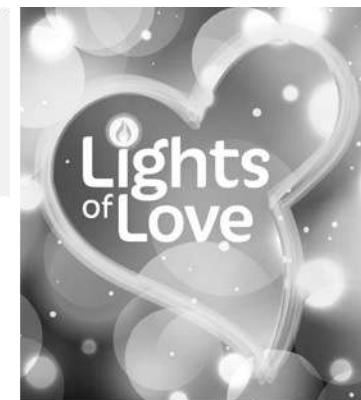
dive has revealed double accounting and extra unplanned costs. Previous financial monitoring was estimated, but the numbers now are based on actual spending and savings. Shropshire Council now waits to find out if they will receive any EFS money from the government.

Over the last few months as planning portfolio holder, I have been lobbying hard to increase resources in planning. Planning makes money for the council. Despite recent cuts planning is already on track to bring in more money from development. Essentially if they increase the number of planners they increase the income planning makes for the public purse. It was absurd that the previous administration made cuts to planning, capping planning's ability to generate income. Cuts removed strategic leadership for the service. This structural deficit is now being addressed. Any underperformance in planning risks delayed planning decisions, unplanned appeal costs, delayed adoption of a local plan and failure to close the 5-year land supply gap. This increases the risk of un-

(Continued on page 11)



Join us at
Lights of Love
Sunday 7 December
 to remember together
 those no longer with us.



We create a special setting at our Shrewsbury hospice so the community can come together as one and celebrate the lives of those we miss every day, and especially at Christmas.

The service includes music, carols and readings and leads to the poignant moment when candles are lit, we pause in silence, and our lights of love tree shines bright in memory of those you hold dear.

You can celebrate the life of someone special to you by dedicating a light on our tree. Every dedication supports our care. Visit:

<https://www.severnospice.org.uk/lights/>

Lights of Love is a continuation of the outstanding care we provide for local people every day of the year and we hope it brings you comfort. Everything we do is only possible thanks to your support. Thank you.

There is a free shuttle bus for Lights of Love, running between the Oxon Park and Ride and our Bicton Heath hospice. Let us know if you would like space aboard when you make your dedication.

And, if you are unable to join us on Sunday 7 December, you can still dedicate a light in our tree. As well as our thanks, we can send to you a complimentary tea-light holder to use at home on the day so you can share the moment with us.

Please ensure your dedications are with us by 16 November so we have time to record them in the commemorative programme.

Thank you so much for your kind and continued support.

To make a dedication and get full details of Lights of Love

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(Continued from page 10)

planned development getting permission it wouldn't otherwise get. Shropshire Council is facing an increased number of speculative applications, sprouting like mushrooms, to exploit that gap. This includes in West Felton.

To help extend the life of current planning policy which expires at the end of the year, Shropshire Council is consulting on three new Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) design documents to promote high-quality, sustainable development:

- Design of New Dwellings SPD – guidance on layout, character, inclusivity, and sustainability.

<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/design-of-new-dwellings-supplementary-planning-document-consultation/>

<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/design-of-residential-extensions-and-alterations-supplementary-planning-document-consultation/>

- Shrewsbury Town Centre Design Code – supporting good design for movement, nature, and built form.

<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/draft-shrewsbury-town-centre-design-code/>

Other SPDs are also in development.

Councillor David Walker

Cabinet member: Planning

Liberal Democrat Shropshire Councillor for Whittington Division

Merry Christmas
to all our contributors
and readers from the
Magazine Committee



So, HOW DO I JOIN??

In our busy community, new volunteers are always welcomed with open arms!



VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE - As will be seen from the What's on? list, our Village hall is a great asset for our village. And it is **OUR** village hall. Managed and maintained entirely by volunteers and self-funding, new committee members are always welcomed. Just contact Ian on 07740 485925 or Eileen on 01691 610629.

THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE - Would love new members, with new ideas; ring Eileen on 01691 610629.

WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL - The Parish Clerk always lets us know in this magazine when there is a vacancy on the council. For full information contact Rosemary, details on page 5.

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS - Teams of volunteers organise each month, contact Christine 01691 610665 or Eileen 01691 610629.

WEST FELTON WI - For fun and friendship, Contact Rhian on 07375 997782 .

And **THE CHURCHES** - St Michael's Parish Church and Pradoc Church - services as noted in this magazine - just turn up and expect to be given a friendly welcome and a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Weakest Link answers

- * What are people banned from wearing on passport photographs in the UK - hats or gloves? **Gloves**
- * What is the name of Handel's musical oratorio that contains Halleluja? **South Pacific**
- * Which offshore radio station broadcast to the UK was named after the daughter of President John F Kennedy? **Luxembourg**
- * A popular drinking song from the 1920s is 'Show me the way to go...' where? **Tipperary**
- * What was the principal language used by the ancient Romans? **Greek**
- * What 'P' is a relish seasoned with mustard? **Piccadilly.**



West Felton Walking Group

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

EXCEPT on the first Monday of the month when departure is 9:30 to allow time to travel to our chosen destination for the away day walk.

New members always welcome.

Walk leaders:-

Mike Bossen 01691 610623

Hilary Iles 01691 610707

**John & Eileen Hanmer
01691 610629**

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Sunday, 30 November at Oswestry Senior Citizens Club (3.30pm)
Saturday, 6 December at Llanymynech Village Hall (7.45 pm)
Sunday, 7 December at Llanymynech Village Hall (2.30 pm)

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Come and meet
the neighbours.

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10-12noon

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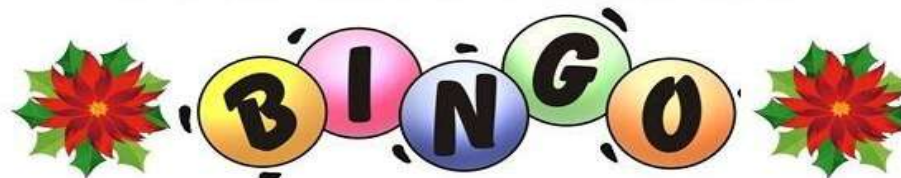
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(Continued from page 41)

Apart from theological controversies and safeguarding, other more managerial problems will need tackling. The Rural church is in danger of collapsing. Having for centuries been the Golden Goose which has supported urban parishes, the rural church finds itself denuded of funds which have been usurped by the Church Commissioners. Five eighths of the 16,000 churches in England are rural, and of these 8,000 are listed. It is a source of some amazement how they carry on, with repairs entailed upon the congregations and the lack of clergy leading to prolonged vacancies. Congregations may be able to cope with the material side of church life, but the spiritual and the pastoral aspects are very much a clerical prerogative. Justin Welby tended to favour "megachurches", usually in towns such as Telford or Stoke, funded by sizeable grants from the Church Commissioners. Rural parishes look with interest to see whether such a programme is continued. Already the Bishop of Hereford has called for some of that money to be returned to rural parishes.

Dame Sarah will surely also be contemplating the decline in ordinations in the church. Over the last 5 years ordinands have declined by 38% and by 2030 on present projections only 200 will be ordained annually. This is to replace about 500 clergy retiring each year. Although sexist to say so,

the excess of females is also worrying. Many female clergy are married and their husbands' earnings will probably exceed theirs as a priest. The husbands are unlikely to want to move to an area like Shropshire where well paid jobs are in the minority. The combination of these two issues will make filling rural benefices difficult.

Most difficult of all for the new ABC is to rediscover and preach the rôle and relevance of the church. Jesus reminded us of the need to help people. Pastoral care is important. Jesus also emphasized the rôle of prayer which is a feature that the church has overlooked in recent times. Many people are finding that their lives miss an intangible, spiritual meaning. How can prayer help? Can the new ABC lead us beyond the corporatist, managerial culture? Can she open our eyes to new thoughts, insights and new understandings? Upon these questions may lie the fate of the Church. ●



"It's to appease the traditionalists."

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What is Christingle?

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the ceremony. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top.

During the service, each person takes a Christingle and the candles are all lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- * The orange represents the world
- * The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- * The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- * The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Funds raised go to The Children's Society.

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Archbishop of Canterbury

Michael Davie

On 3rd October 2025, for the first time in history, a woman, Dame Sarah Mullally was named as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Outside of the Church press, the comment has been notable – for the dearth of comment. Observations that have appeared have been anodyne such as the output from No 10 that “the new Archbishop is the first woman to hold the post”.

Although the influence of the church is declining, the Archbishop of Canterbury (ABC) has a seat in the House of Lords, has great ceremonial powers, tends to be quoted on matters of national importance and can make waves by controversial pronouncements. The ABC presides over an organisation that can influence education through 4,600 schools (controlled or aided) and has a backing of £10.4 billion through the Church Commissioners.

Mullally trained as a nurse and served as Chief Nursing officer in England from 1999 until 2004. From 1998 to 2001 she also found time to obtain a Diploma in Theology from the University of Kent and she was ordained as a priest in 2002. She emphasizes her wish to serve people and has said that she became a nurse rather than a doctor because she desired a more holistic approach to the patient. She has emphasized her wish to be a

shepherd and certainly her experience in London, where she was known as “the Bedpan” by some clergy, has hardened her to the difficulties in leading the different factions of the clergy in that Diocese.

Practical rather than academic, she will have no shortage of theological controversies to oversee during her period of office. Whilst in the early part of the 20th century Randall Davidson, the then ABC, spent much time soothing quarrels between the Bishop of Hereford (low church) and the Dean of Durham (high church), Dame Sarah will have to lead the church through several controversies including Blessings and Marriages for same sex couples and the Living in Love and faith agenda. All this is due for debate in the General Synod (the church’s parliament) next year and are unlikely to be accepted. She will have to manage the tensions between the evangelicals, the traditionalists and those who want a common sense pragmatic approach. At the age of 64 years it is likely that she will be a caretaker ABC since there is little that she can change in that time. She will in fact share the shortest time (6 years) as Archbishop with Donald Coggan (1974-80) since Richard Bancroft (1604-10). The short time of her tenure should surely lead to those in the hierarchy seeking to identify who will be the next Archbishop.

(Continued on page 43)

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Hope House Fundraising

Ian Walker

Quiz Night

Well, we held the quiz night in the village hall on 25th October and we had a good turnout even though there were various other annual events happening in the area that same night.

This was the first time I had put together a quiz, and thankfully there was no fighting over the answers!

We had over 30 people making up 9 teams. The picture quiz on British birds went down well, as did the map of English counties without names. Amazingly 2 teams got 43 out of 46 answers on the 'name the counties' map.

Well done to the winning team - 'Missing Strictly for This', who scored 91 marks out of a possible 110 and many thanks to all the quizzers who came along to make this such a good evening.

Thanks also to the Village Hall Committee, who kindly donated the use of the hall free of charge.

Carvery Night

The Punch Bowl agreed to lay on their Sunday carvery, but specially on a Thursday evening, on the 6th November.

Forty-five of us filled the restaurant, with people coming from as far away as Whitchurch and plenty of friends and neighbour's from West Felton and surrounding area.



(Continued on page 19)

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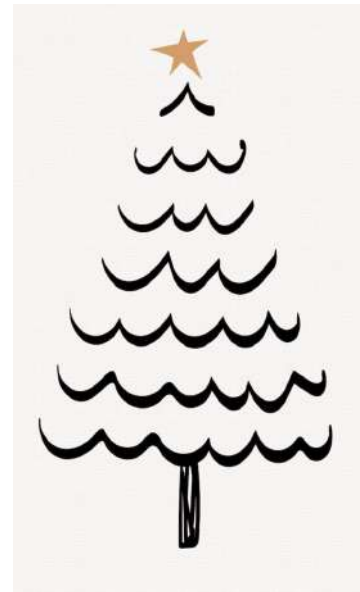
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ILLUMINATED TRACTOR RUN

The popular event will take place on Saturday, December 13, starting from Oswestry Cattle Market at 5pm.

Last year, more than 100 brightly illuminated tractors set off from the town and wound their way around north Shropshire, taking in West Felton, Ellesmere, St Martins and Gobowen, before returning to the market on Shrewsbury Road.

The event has become a huge fundraiser for the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund, having raised £12,000 in its first year in 2023, and £20,050 in 2024.

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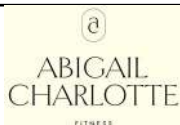
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(Continued from page 17)

There was a constant chatter in the air all evening and the food was scrumptious with no complaints.

The raffle table was filled with donated prizes and the mini auction was a great success.

Such a lovely atmosphere in the pub all night.

Thanks to all who attended to make this such a warm and friendly event, and thanks to Sally and staff for being so attentive and providing such a lovely meal.

So what did we raise?

The quiz night generated £235 and the carvery night £562, so that's a total of £797 raised. This will be doubled by the Quality Moments Matter campaign so that's £1594 going to Hope House Hospice.

With thanks, Ian.

WEST FELTON POPPY CONCERT

A big thank you to all who contributed in any way to the fantastic evening we had in the Village Hall on 7th November for the annual Poppy Concert. We were treated to music from three great choirs of differing ages: the Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir, the very talented youths from the Clef Hangers choral group and our own great School choir. In addition, a standing ovation was well deserved for a solo rendition of Nessun dorma.

The hall was packed, with extra chairs being borrowed from the Punch Bowl, and still several people had to stand throughout the concert. But all in a good cause.

The Orthopaedic Choir waived their usual fee and therefore after expenses, combining ticket sales and the raffle we made a fantastic £951.40 which is being sent to the Royal British Legion towards the Poppy Appeal 2025.

**We are so lucky to live in a village where the support
and generosity never fails. Thank you.**



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(Continued from page 35)

Does the offer sound too good to be true? Are they refusing to provide you with additional photos? Do they want you to pay up front by bank transfer?

Only use the secure payment method recommended by retailers and auction sites, where possible, use a credit card for purchases over £100 and up to £30,000 as you receive protection under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act.

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

If you have been a victim of fraud

- * Report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via actionfraud.police.uk
- * Scam Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take prompt action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks.
- * You can also report fraudulent mobile calls by texting 7726 with the word "Call" followed by the fraudster's phone number.
- * Scam calls received on WhatsApp can be blocked by opening the chat with the suspect phone number and tap on "Block".
- * Forward Fake Emails received to report@phishing.gov.uk
- * If you think your bank account or personal banking details have been used fraudulently, then use the short phone number - 159 - to contact the Fraud Prevention Department of most major UK banks.

**Police and Crime Commissioner,
John Campion**

Crime continues to fall in West Mercia

At the heart of my police and crime plan is a focus on 'Cutting crime' - and we continue to deliver on that priority.

Continuing the long-term downward trend, the latest data from the Office for National Statistics shows overall recorded crime has fallen by 4%. This follows a 6% drop recorded earlier in the year. Some of the biggest decreases include burglary at 19%, incidents of serious violence at 9%, overall theft at 8%, and shoplifting at 5%. In my role, I regularly engage with the public to understand their lived experiences as it cannot only be about the data, but also how safe you feel.

Those conversations make it clear that there's still more to do to ensure they feel the benefits of less crime, and at the same time, ensuring the resources are available to address some concerning upward trends.

That's why I will continue to use my voice to support and challenge the Chief Constable to ensure crime rates are not just statistics, but a reflection of safer, more confident communities. ●

West Mercia PCC's newsletter



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Friends of West Felton CofE PTA Update



It's been a busy and exciting time for our school community! Our recent Quiz Night was a great success and brought everyone together for some fantastic fun - congratulations to the winning team 'The awesome Lawsons'. We also held a Spooky disco, which was enjoyed by pupils across all year groups - it was such a brilliant evening, full of energy and smiles all round!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported these events, we couldn't do it without you.

As we start to look ahead to Christmas, we're on the lookout for any Christmas decorations that our community might be able to donate. We'd love to use them to decorate The Glade as a special surprise for the children! If you have any spare decorations you'd like to contribute, please get in touch with Patricia on 07825 814626 to arrange collection or drop-off.

We have also got lots of wonderful activities and events planned over the next few months. Take a look at the 'dates for your diary' poster on page and keep an eye out for updates on seesaw and our FB page!

Thank you, as always, for your amazing support.

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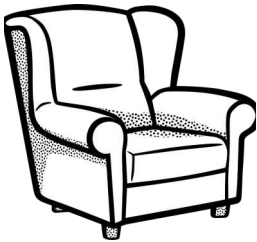


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WEST MERCIA POLICE - ECONOMIC CRIME UNIT MONTHLY FRAUD BULLETIN - NOVEMBER 2025

**Your monthly update direct from West Mercia
Police on the latest scams and frauds**

Whilst Black Friday is nominally a one day event and one of the busiest shopping days of the year, Black Friday “deals” appear in abundance throughout the month of November.

So once again, it does not take long for criminals to seize another opportunity to defraud unsuspecting members of the public of their hard-earned cash. Therefore, just holding back, taking a few minutes to double check the Black Friday bargain is a genuine offer from a genuine retailer, can protect you from joining the increasing number of people who fall victim to these scams

In the heat of the moment, it can be hard to tell if it is a bargain or a scam, especially in the run up to Black Friday!

Criminals may try to trick you into purchasing goods/services that do not exist by advertising them at too good to be true prices.

Protect your money and information by only using retailers you trust, or authorised sellers named on official websites when shopping for deals online.

Beware of Phishing emails that appear to come from reputable retailers with “too good to miss” offers, never click on links in emails from unrecognised senders.

Check out the security of the Website by looking for the https:// in the website address and the padlock symbol which should be in the address bar, and not in the body of the site, as confirmation of a website’s security.

Fake websites can copy mainstream online retailers and enticing buyers with unbeatable prices, so always stick with well-known, reputable retailers online and check the URL is for the genuine retailer.

Some online sellers may be selling counterfeit products at Black Friday prices.

Beware of limited time offers which create a false sense of urgency to get you to act quickly - **Take Five before you buy.**

Criminals are making use of Artificial Intelligence – (AI) – more and more, to present much more convincing emails, adverts and fake websites, so check, check and check again.



(Continued on page 37)

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October
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17th October
Quiz Night

5th
December
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12th
February
Movie Night

5th March
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Day

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West Felton Women's Institute



Autumn continues to be busy. Members visited the Abbey in Shrewsbury to mark WI Day nationally - the organisation is 110 years old this year! Various competitions and stalls showcased the vast talent in Shropshire's institutes from hand crafted leather bags to delicious preserves to the table top displays with their imaginative interpretations of 'Sporting Life': Surfing (complete with a knitted campervan); a celebration of Wild Swimming; the Olympics and even Lucha Libre! We also acquired some delightful vintage WI teatowels, useful books and other items. Yvette did sterling work on the membership stall while particular congratulations go to Gillian who triumphed with the winning frangipane in the county! Delicious refreshments were available with seating being pew-based! All in all a colourful, inspiring visit – free for all the public to visit the Abbey and see what WI does.

Oswestry WI hosted this year's Oswestry North Group's social event which took place at Hope Church in town, a warm venue with good acoustics. The Orthopaedic's Male Voice Choir's uplifting repertoire included 'Seventy Six Trombones' and 'Stout Hearted Men'. Thanks to them and to Oswestry WI for a good evening.

Another entertaining evening was enjoyed by the many of us who ventured to the Attfield theatre in town to watch 'Allo 'Allo 2: The Camembert Caper'. We shall say this only once, so "felicitations" to the company on their comic timing, delivery of slapstick and their sustaining of a variety of accents.

The speaker at our October meeting was Liz Jermy from Oswestry & Borders Foodbank. She spoke of the practical support which the organisation is able to give to those referred to them. They are based at 56, Beatrice Street in Oswestry and have links to organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau to help those in need in getting back on their feet again. Donated items were despatched with Liz to help mark this time of harvest festival giving.

We look forward to forthcoming visits from Shropshire farmer Jan Morgan-Birtles who will help remind us of summer warmth with a talk on the ice-cream she makes and sells followed in December by Shaun Higgins who'll perform his poignant tribute to poet Wilfred Owen of First World War fame.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Village Hall. Please ring 07375997782 for further information. ●

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How to..

- Prepare your device
(for max value delete any data and remove any accounts)
- Complete consent form
- Seal devices into bags
- Drop into reception at school
(Bags and consent forms available from reception at school)

Any enquiries please contact

donations@shropshire-it-recycling.com or 01952794168

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

MOBILE LIBRARY

Owen's - Route 4

Subject to change due to inclement weather,
vehicle breakdown, COVID-19:

Alternate Thursdays

Grimpo 14:10 to 14:45
West Felton Village Hall
15:00 to 15:40



Come let us adore Him



Christmas Carols in West Felton

Everyone welcome

St Michael's, West Felton

•**Sunday 7th December, 4:00pm**

Traditional Carol service with Packwood choir.
Refreshments including wine.

•**Sunday 14th December, 3:00pm**

Community carols & readings. Tea/Coffee and mince pies.

•**Wed. 24th December 6:00pm**

Christmas Eve Service with Communion.

St Chad's Haughton

•**Sunday 28th December 4pm**

Carol service. Refreshments including wine.

(Continued from page 27)

straw and is light and convenient to apply but is claimed to stay put. Some people swear by composted bark which I would expect to last well.

When you have done all your jobs, you are allowed to enjoy Christmas and hope that some kind soul has given you just what you wanted for the garden.●

Our Help at Home service enables you to remain independent at home and enjoy life.

Your friendly Support Worker can assist with: vacuuming, dusting, bathroom and kitchen cleaning, laundry and ironing, shopping and collecting prescriptions.

The two-hour visits are by the same Support Worker each time and we can make sure you're receiving all the benefits you're entitled to.

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Prune, clear and spread

I suppose there is no such thing as a normal gardening year, plants react to the unpredictable patterns of weather in what can seem a most mysterious way. For example, this year we had a crop of butternut squash that was something like four times the normal—why? Nothing had been changed. We also had above average yields of potatoes and carrots; in fact nothing in the fruit and vegetable garden failed despite the long periods of no rain. I can't say as I could have predicted from the weather the magnificent show of autumn colour we had. We particularly noted a large poplar tree that glowed yellow in the evening sun and held its leaves through the first autumn storms. It was also a successful year for the ornamental department with some things, for example roses, clearly enjoying the heat earlier on and lasted into November.

It is just as well to have something positive to look back on as December is not exactly an inspiring month in our garden. Apart from pruning and clearing beds and paths, plus getting on with landscaping jobs when weather allows, the most notable task is spreading soil conditioner on the vegetable garden and on some favoured beds. The pruning includes

climbing roses and the blackberry, which has old canes removed and the new tied in. It is also a convenient time to check all ties and labels.

We like to buy most of our gardening supplies from a horticultural merchant rather than garden centres, which is best done by having an annual "job lot" order that we do in December, with delivery expected in January. This does mean that you need to have storage facility for bulky things like compost etc, which needs to be out of the rain. Which? did an investigation that showed that storing compost outside is definitely not a good idea as the bags have microscopic holes that let some moisture in an out. By the same token they shouldn't be kept too dry. Which? found that a shed was better than a polytunnel, but we have the luxury of a dedicated compost shelter.

One regret I have in the garden is that spreading a mulch over most of it is both inconvenient and too expensive on account of aspect and size. If you don't have those restrictions, there is much to be gained by mulching, not least to conserve moisture in times when rain follows an all or nothing pattern, as is forecast these days. If I could afford it, I would probably go for Strulch which is made from wheat

(Continued on page 31)

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19th Nov;
26th Nov;
5th Dec;
8th Dec;
12th Dec.

For enquiries and further information
please contact us by email at trees@leatonforest.co.uk
Leaton Forest SY4 3AP.

