

West Felton WI is celebrating its centenary year, the first meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1921, 100 years, it's quite an achievement!  
As one of the larger WIs in Shropshire we are a thriving and vibrant group and look forward to another varied and fulfilling year.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on the world. As a result, the human race has had to limit socialising and this of course has influenced West Felton WI since the Government imposed various lockdowns and restrictions. The last time we met in the village hall was on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The early part of the pandemic saw many of our members get out their sewing machines, making mountains of uniform bags and masks for the NHS and key workers.

Throughout the pandemic West Felton WI have remained as proactive as possible to keep our members engaged. Members have received regular newsletters (inc hard copies to those members not on email), email updates, chit-chat phone calls, monthly Zoom meetings which follow as closely as possible the normal in person meetings (Business/Speaker/Social Time). A bonus is that we have been able to enjoy some varied and interesting speakers from further afield. We've also have held various workshops, demonstrations and educational events on zoom during this time.

As the North Oswestry Group WIs convenor, we also invite members of Whittington, Gobowen, St Martins and Oswestry WI's to join in with our zoom meetings and events.

Our What's App chat group has been a lifeline for members with funny videos and jokes being posted regularly to bring a little laughter and joy to the day. It's a great informal and quick way to keep in touch and an easy way to ask for help or advice. At Christmas we were fortunate to be able to hold a successful Pop-Up event in the Punch Bowl car park.

West Felton WI has always been a thriving and busy group and we need to do our best to keep the vibe and atmosphere buoyant during these difficult times.

We have lots of interesting, fun and mind expending ideas and events to look forward to in the coming months.

Whilst nothing can truly replace our meetings in the hall, zoom is the way forward for the time being, that said we are all very much looking forward to being able to meet up once again in person.

We are hopeful that it won't be too much longer before we can meet up face to face, however, our priority has to be the safety of our members and we must remain within Government rules and guidelines as they change.

Yvette Openshaw  
President