

Update from the **Village Life Magazine** Committee

We are pleased to welcome Peter Imbrey to our delivery team this month to help us with the first edition for 2016. With the second phase of the Wrekin Housing Trust development almost complete, some 27 of the new houses and bungalows in Bower Farm Drive and Lewis Close are now occupied (and as you will see from the content in this issue, the remaining shared ownership properties are nearing completion), so we are delighted that Peter is taking over delivery to this estate from now onwards.

The next development needing a volunteer to make new deliveries is Holland Drive on Irvine Gardens (between Garden Village and The Keys). Only one property is occupied as I write, but a number have been either sold or reserved, so by our next edition at the end of March we will need someone who is willing to deliver to the 20 phase one properties there, plus the 17 bungalows in Berwyn Drive. Whether or not you live in that immediate area, if you are willing and able to help, please give me a call on 01691 770677, or contact me by email to john@hjstevens.freeseve.co.uk (or drop in to see me on any Wednesday at the St Martins Centre between 10.00am and 2pm).

To give some advance notice, I should also mention that there are now several vacancies on the **Village Life** editorial committee. If you would be interested in joining us to help keep the magazine going, you can either get in touch now, or if you prefer, put your name forward ahead of our Annual Meeting in May.

Whether or not you are able to help with the above, we would also welcome any letters or articles that you are able to contribute to the magazine, together with any suggestions you may have on items you would like to see in the future. Your feedback on what is, after all your magazine, is always greatly appreciated.

John Stevens (Chair of the Editorial Committee)

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**If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication
please email it to stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com
by no later than Friday 11th March 2016**

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Disclaimer: Whilst we make every attempt to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained in these pages, errors may occur. Village Life Magazine will not be held responsible for loss, however arising, from the use of or reliance on this information. The full text of this disclaimer can be found on

www.stmartins-online.org.uk/villagelife

This publication will be delivered FREE to every household within the Parish of St Martins.

A very Happy New Year to one and all.

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. I wonder what it holds for us, what issues the Council will need to address and how can we make our village a better place to live. If you have any ideas as to how we can enhance the place where we live please email me, drop a note in at the Centre or come and tell me about it.

Did you manage to brave the weather on December 12th? It rained and rained and rained. Ashley Allum and some of his mates worked very hard through the morning putting up the Christmas Tree and by the time they had finished they were soaked through. Thanks boys - it was and has been very much appreciated by many. At 4:25pm I thought it would just be a quick thank you to the half



dozen people that had braved the weather, switch on the lights and go home. Then 5 members of the Ifton Colliery Band came and suddenly 90 (Brian did a quick head count) people were there. The band led us in 3 carols, little Maddie Owen was chosen from the children who came and she pushed the plunger to switch on the lights. Ash had done a great job with the blue and white lights swirling around the tree and the star on the top. Our thanks go to Marvin Batha, Simon Burgess and Ash for donating more lights, and to Ash, The Keys and Nev Peate for donating the Christmas Tree.

Are there some guys out there who are willing to give just a couple of hours **a year** to form a team with Ash to put up the tree and take it down? At present Ash relies on passing mates to stop and help him. It will be about an hour on the second Saturday of December (10th 2016) to put the tree up (whatever the weather) and the same to take it down on the first Saturday in January (or whatever date is agreed). If you can help please drop me an email and either Ash or myself will send you an email at the start of next December to confirm date and time.

There is another seat that has become vacant on the Council. Application will be out soon. Are you the person to fill this seat? Can you give of your time and expertise to support and take this community forward in 2016.

Sue Schofield Chair of St Martins Parish Council

Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

The January meeting was held in The Community Centre St Martins.

At the start of the meeting a number of residents from Oak Drive were in attendance expressing concern over incidents that are becoming regular and a nuisance to residents in this area. CSO Dave Hughes from Oswestry Police Station, who was in attendance, explained that they are aware of this situation but need more information from members of the public before they can take action. He encouraged members of the public to either ring 101 or contact him direct on 07792 774047. He assured everyone present that the police are totally committed to ensuring that St Martins is a safe place to live. Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing Association will also be contacted by the Parish Council to see what controls and checks they have in place for residents in their properties in Oak Drive.

Although the police have done a number of visits outside the school at the start and end of the school day, Members were still concerned over the speed of traffic in this area. Other police concerns, including HGV's not giving way to traffic approaching from their right at the mini roundabouts by the school and opposite Stan's Superstore, cars parking on Overton Road on the pavement outside the vets at school times are also causing safety issues with pedestrians trying to use the footpath. The speed of traffic on Moors Bank was also a concern especially at the bottom before the canal where cars are passing buses at speed when they are stopped at the bus stops on either side of the road. The police have also been asked to carry out checks on Kimberley Lane where HGV's are still using this Lane as a short cut.

A number of highway issues were raised which would be reported to the relevant authorities. These included pot holes on the left hand side of the road as you approach Escob Bridge from the Gledrid Roundabout, made worse by water coming off the adjacent field, a number of pot holes in Moors Lane including the edge of the grass verge being very muddy and spreading mud across the road, pot holes just before the bridge over the canal, damage to the grass verge and mud on the road in Colliery Lane caused by contractors traffic going in and out of the new development in this area and traffic signs by the junction to Clerks Lane pointing in the wrong direction.

The Parish Council were encouraged that three local residents applied for the part time position of parish handyperson. Following interviews, Huw Manford was appointed and will carry out minor maintenance work to Parish Council owned equipment and recreational areas as and when required and instructed by the Parish Council.

Following the resignation of Councillor Alison Kynaston-Jones a number of residents applied to fill the casual vacancy created. All applicants have to complete a small questionnaire which all Councillors see before appointing by secret ballot.

Current Parish Councillors

Ashley Allum	01691 770042
Irene Constable	01691 238357
Gordon Fryer	01691 774520
Neil Graham	01691 778427
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
Brian Herbert	01691 772647
James Hoos	01691 661218
Duncan Laing	07702 991 845
Brian Latham	01691 772890
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
Lesley-Anne Roberts	01691 776438
John Sands	01691 772394
John Stevens	01691 770677
Sue Schofield	01691 777710

Shropshire Council

Councillor Steve Davenport

Unitary Councillor, St Martins School Governor, Chair of St Martins Centre Trustees

Please call or email me if you have any queries

Tel 07776 173678 Email: steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk

Dear all.

Happy New Year and thank you to all the people who helped over Christmas to make the Village feel festive especially the tree lights, when people gave their time and money to help. I'm not going to name them but you know who you are.

Shropshire Council does not stop. It's on hand to try and keep things moving. We have a new leader of the council now, a steady hand in Malcolm Pate. During these times of funding cuts many of our services are coming under pressure and we as Shropshire Council are writing to the Government, indeed the Prime Minister himself, over our concerns.

I will continue to try my best to make sure we get our fair share of help in my area. Driving around on a regular basis it's not difficult to see many holes in roads and rubbish that has been fly tipped. I and the Parish Council have reported these issues. Please don't hesitate to contact me by email or at the St Martins Centre, I'm happy to discuss or come and see you for any reason.

Steve Davenport

Continued from page 3

This position has now been filled by Irene Constable. A notice has now gone up advertising a further vacancy following the resignation of Daniel Anderton.

Over the past years the Parish Council have been using a website run by Shropshire Council called Shrop.NET which, due to continued budget reductions by Shropshire Council, will cease to be supported from the 31st March 2016. Unfortunately over the coming months there will be no information from the Parish Council on any council website but you will be able to read all agreed minutes on stmartin-online.org.uk by following the link to the Parish Council. However, the Parish Council have now signed up with Vision ICT to design a new website which should be up and running within the next few months. Further updates will be given in the next edition of the Village Life.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 11th February 2016 at 7.00pm in the Community Centre, St Martins when the budget and precept will be agreed for the coming year.

Edward Davies Fellow ILCM –
St Martins Parish Clerk.

Tenders

St Martins Parish Council invite tenders for this seasons hanging baskets.

The tender price to include the following;
collect 40 lamp post holestar planters from Parish Council store, plant up 40 planter halves, size 570mm, install two per lamp post in St Martins, remove and dispose of contents at end of season and return planters to Parish Council store.

Tender forms available from Parish Clerk.

Completed tenders to be received by the Parish Clerk by noon on the 28th February 2016.

Edward Davies Fellow ILCM

St Martins Parish Clerk

Tel: 01743 366420

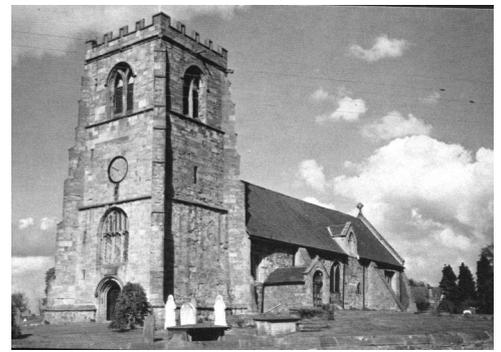
St. Martins Parish Church.

The Benefice of St. Martins and Weston Rhyn.

Church Website: www.stmartinsparish.co.uk

Contact Revd Stuart Jermy - svicar@btinternet.com;

Tel:778 468; text 07766 255436



ALPHA Course - GOT ANY QUESTIONS about faith, life and God.

We are holding a series of evenings for people wanting to know more about the Christian faith. Come join in the discussions and share your experiences with others.

See website or church notices for details

Confirmation / Baptisms. The Right Reverend Mark Rylands, Bishop of Shrewsbury, is coming to the church in June to do a Confirmation and Baptism service for us. If you have not been confirmed or baptised please speak to the Vicar - now is your chance.

Weekly Events and Service times

Sunday: 9:30am our usual Morning Worship Service

Sunday FIRST messy church - Feb 7th **11am** - and then 6th March at 10:am
see below

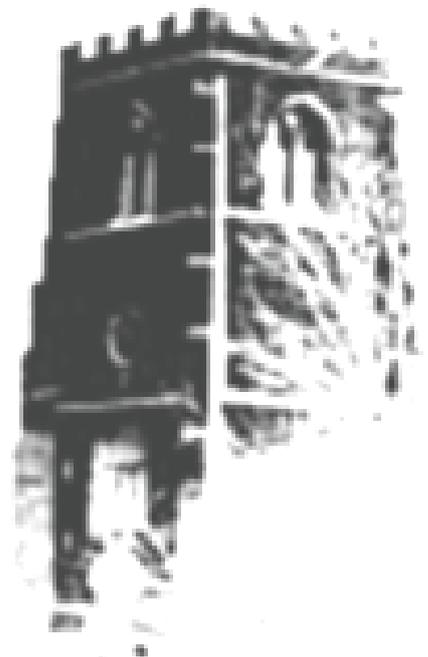
Tuesday Coffee morning at 10:30 in the church hall

Wednesday 9:30am Mid week communion

Fridays 7:30 St. Martins and Weston Rhyn
Church youth group @ St. Johns Weston Rhyn

Mothering Sunday Service - 6th March at 10am.

Church Website:
www.stmartinsparish.co.uk





St Martins Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Heather Wilson 01691 769164

Thursday Coffee Mornings 10.30 - 11.30

Come along and join us for coffee, biscuits & a chat.

	7 th February	14 th February	21 st February	28 th February
ST MARTINS 10.00	AWT	Rev Shoreman	Watts	Chirk Bank 11.00
MOORS 11.00	Rev Shoreman	Rev D Watkins	AWT	Chirk Bank 11.00

MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

Ellesmere Road Chapel

SUNDAY MARCH 6TH 10.00am

Join us for coffee & Simnel Cake

after the service.



PICTURES FROM THE PAST



It's a sad day, back in 1968, as pit closes

The lamps were going out all over Ifton back in November 1968. Head lampman Mr Harry Roberts is here checking the now unused lamps at the pit after the announcement that it was closing.

The original caption to this photo, which was taken on November 25 was: "It will be 20 weeks before the 'grand

old lady of St Martins' - Ifton pit - is finally laid to rest.

"The pit died on Friday - axed by the National Coal Board - but today work began on the final task of stripping it of all its worldly goods, £220,000 worth of machinery . . .

"A shift of 120 men went down the pit today to start on the early salvage work."

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Fibre Broadband in St Martins

Is it sad news or encouraging news? Below is a communication from Connecting Shropshire.

“At the meeting with Openreach this morning, they have confirmed that cabinet 4* in St Martins is now full. Around 300 premises served by this cabinet have upgraded to fibre.

What this means is that nobody else connected to that cabinet can upgrade to fibre broadband until more capacity is created.

To provide more capacity a new cabinet has to be installed. Openreach have planned for this work which is expected to start in the Spring.”

**Cabinet 4 is located opposite Stan's Superstore serving the centre of the village.*



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Available Mondays* & Tuesdays from 11am

Includes Roast Dinner & Sweet

All for only £4.59

*NOT AVAILABLE ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAYS

Food For Thought January 2016

Having eaten and drunk well over Christmas and the New Year we were going to miss a report for this issue. But we are weak willed and we heard that the Jack Mytton at Hindford had re-opened. So off we went, not an easy place to drive to on a dark, wet and windy night.



The renovation is excellent. The ceiling is high so the bar area is quite echoic. We were made very welcome by the owners and the barman, who knew all about the beers on offer. I tried a pint of Growling Bear which is brewed by the Joules brewery at Market Drayton especially for The Jack Mytton. It was well kept and very pleasant. For my second pint I switched to Stonehouse Cambrian Gold, also very well kept and more to my taste, my wife chose a glass of red wine. Now for the Menu. At first sight we were disappointed as the main courses were mainly steaks and burgers, although there were fish and chips and a pie. None of it really our type of food. The starters looked very appetising. My wife chose wild mushroom fricassee on toasted brioche, I had seafood cocktail which contained crayfish and smoked salmon, both very tasty and beautifully presented. For our main courses my wife opted for rare rump steak, which was tender and cooked to perfection, while I had the chicken stack. The chicken stack was a rather large home breaded chicken breast served in a bun with bacon lettuce and mayonnaise. We couldn't manage a sweet but I did decide to try the cheese & biscuits. It was a good selection of cheese, but for me it could have done with a few more biscuits, especially as my wife swiped the brie and a biscuit! I am sure I could have had more if I had asked. All in all it cost just over £50. It is worth noting that the beer is very reasonably priced at £3.10 for the Growling Bear and only £3.00 for the Cambrian

Gold. The service was the best we have experienced in a long time. It was so nice to have drinks served at the table from a tray and not just plonked on the table.

A very pleasant evening all round.

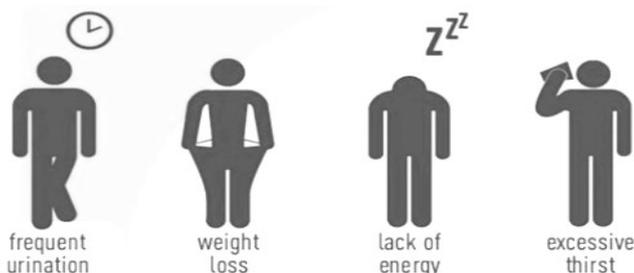
The Foodsmith



FREE Diabetes screening

(No appointment needed)

1 in 2 people with diabetes don't know they have it.



If so, speak to your local pharmacist at St Martins Pharmacy

Open: Mon-Fri 9am till 6pm, Sat 9am till 1pm. Tel: 01691 778873

***St. Martins Pharmacy, your local family-run
community pharmacy***

Ifton Colliery Band News

Happy new year to all from everyone at Ifton Colliery Band!

The close of 2015 was a very busy time, with the band taking part in lots of concerts and events with some of the highlights being Oswestry Christmas live, St Martins Lighting the tree, carol services at the St Martins Parish Church and the Moors Chapel.

2016 is a milestone year for the band with it marking our 100th year!

The band is planning a few concerts in and round the village, the first of which will take place in the Miners Institute on Saturday 23 April.

As well as Concerts to mark our centenary, the band would like to gather any old photographs of the band, or stories from past members about the history of the band, or funny stories that people would like to share (like a story involving a past Solo Euphonium Player and a frozen Chicken).

Any photos or stories can be sent by email

to:- iftoncollieryband@yahoo.co.uk

For more information on when and where to see the band check out our website at iftoncollieryband.co.uk



Shrewsbury Food Festival 2016

Village brothers

stay close thanks to new homes

Two brothers have been given the chance to stay in the village they have grown up in and to stay close to family, thanks to a new development of homes by The Wrekin Housing Trust.

Ted and Peter Penrose were 'born and bred' in the village of St Martins and have leapt at the chance of a new home in the village, on the Trust's second phase of homes at Bower Farm, adjacent to Stan's superstore.

The brothers have been living in private rented accommodation, and are looking forward to moving into

their new homes, having picked up the keys on Friday. Ted and Peter say that they used to play football on the site of the new homes when they were young, so it's great to be now living there.

About living so close to his brother, Ted said: "It'll be fun to live so close together; he's doing the tea first though!"

Peter said about his new home: "It's a fantastic house and great that the garden already has a shed as I can keep my paint in there, although the lovely, fresh paint in the new house has saved me a job!"



Ted Penrose, Carol Denning and Peter Penrose



Chianta, Peter and Ted

Sarah Bradshaw, Project Manager for the Trust, said: "Working with CGL construction, we will have supplied 31 new homes for the village by the end of January, providing modern, energy-efficient and affordable homes that enable people to stay in this rural village, with the knock-on effect of supporting the local community and amenities."

The Trust is also building six shared ownership homes for those wishing to buy a share in their own home. The Trust has worked with a Community Project Board to tackle the issue of a lack of good quality affordable housing in the village and to ensure that the homes built suit the requirements of those who are looking for a home.

The new homes on this development will have generated over £9 million pounds to the economy, and created over 80 jobs including 4 apprenticeship opportunities.

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STORE OPENING TIMES: MONDAY—SATURDAY 7AM—9PM

SUNDAY 8AM—8PM



ST MARTINS COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

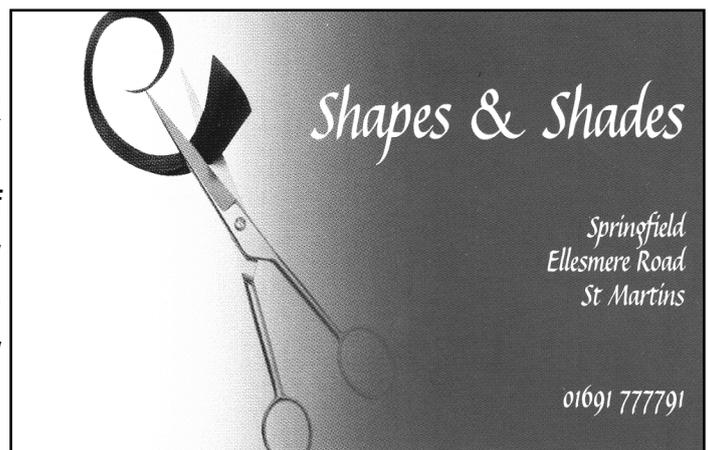
The very first thing I must do in this edition is thank the anonymous donor who delivered £60 cash to John's house towards the end of the old year. I would prefer to thank you personally, but please accept this public acknowledgment of your generosity in lieu. We are very grateful.

The turn of the year is a time to add up our sums and record the statistics. In 2015 John attended 490 jobs and I went to 334, a joint total of 824, 132 more than during 2014. We have been sent as far afield as Llanyblodwel, Welshampton and Hordley and occasionally over the border into Chirk. The majority of calls have been to falls where the patient may be hurt or not, and chest pains some of which were cardiac related and some not. Between us we were sent to 25 cardiac arrests and we had the Helimed drop in on us half a dozen times.



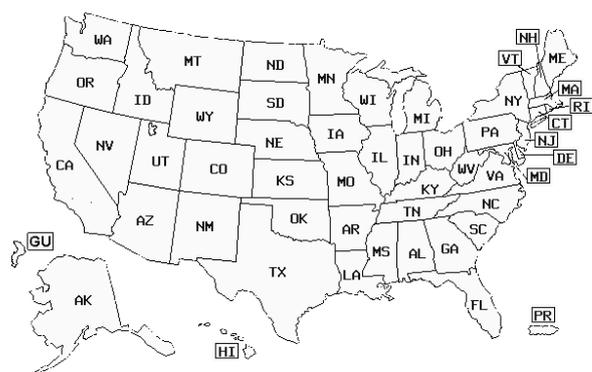
By the time you read this the new car will be buzzing around. You certainly can't miss it! I'd like to make special mention of Nick Roberts (from Furrows of Oswestry) and Lincoln McMullen (from The Sigtists of Ellesmere) both of whom have gone way beyond the call of duty to help with the changeover of the CFR cars. I don't know how we would have done it without them.

Effie CFR St Martins



Jan 2016 Quiz

1. Where do British swallows migrate to each autumn?
2. Which town houses a prison, closed in 2013, in which Oscar Wilde was incarcerated and about which he wrote a famous poem?
3. Which ocean is the largest?
4. Kuala Lumpur is the capital city of which country?
5. By how many runs did England beat South Africa in the first test?
6. Chief Medical Officer Dame Sally Davies said we should refrain from alcohol for how many days a week?



7. In which U.S. state can the cities of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia be found?
8. In which continent are the Altai Mountains?
9. How many consonants (including Y) are there in the English alphabet?
10. In which year of the 20th century did three kings reign?

Answers on page 17

***Parents and carers with children under the age of five ***

We are two local full time mums thinking of setting up a new parent and toddler group for under 5s which would be held in St Martins on Friday mornings. The group would be a relaxed and friendly environment where you can come along to meet new people, have a bit of a break from day to day jobs, and somewhere that you can enjoy play, crafts, music and fun activities with your children.

If you would be interested in coming along to a group like this, please get in touch with us and let us know, and share any thoughts or ideas that you might have about how to make this group work. We'd love to hear from you and to find out about what you'd like to see available for you and your children.

Please email Dee on lexlotfre@gmail.com
or Lisa on lisalear35@gmail.com
or ring us on 07864056502



St Martins Craft Group

A picture of the first batch of 'Twiddle Muffs' made by members of the Craft Club which were sent to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

These knitted muffs decorated inside and out with twiddles of bits and bobs are given to dementia or unsettled patients for them to explore different pieces, and for chemotherapy

If you can donate any odd balls of wool, ribbon, buttons or anything to decorate the muffs for our members to use, please contact 01691 778521.



Condolences

Bronwen Evans died 23rd Dec 2015 at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Barbara Williams died 4th Jan 2016 at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Our deep commiserations to all the families.

DEBORAH SHAW

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St Martins Centre

As I sit here writing this article the rain has stopped for now, the children are having a kick about on the play area and there are folks on the skate park and using some of the other play equipment, it's really good to see. I seem to have had a fortnight of Sundays, so getting back to a regular routine is not the easiest of things to do. I wonder how many more people are feeling the same.

A New Year has begun and the Centre Trustees are looking to increase the number of Trustees. There are 6 of us at present which in terms of expertise for such a diverse enterprise, is quite narrow. We have about 9 meetings a year, usually on a Monday evening, to consider building maintenance, fund raising events, upgrading the facilities and grant funding and applications etc..

If you would consider becoming a Trustee come and have a look round and have a chat to Sue our manager in the first instance, then you can have a chat with the Chair, Steve Davenport and if you still want to join us, come to our next Trustees meeting.

The good news is that the office at the Centre will be open 5 days a week now as John Stevens has agreed to man the office on a Wednesday between 10am - 2pm. Which means that Book Box will be open too (as long as there are no committee meetings that day)

As an advance notice, we think we will have Car Boot Sales here once a month between April and September, look out for more information in the next issue of Village Life. Have a very HAPPY NEW YEAR

Valuation Day

Would you like to have that collectable or Antique etc valued.

Ever wondered what it is worth?



Christian Trevanion

St Martins Centre
Thursday 24th March

At 10:30

£2 per item



Aaron Dean

Refreshments available



Monday Night Curry Night 5pm-8pm

Curry and a pint £8.50

Tuesday Night Fish Night 5pm-8pm

Beer Battered Cod, Breaded Plaice, Scampi or Salmon and a pint £9.95

Wednesday Night Steak Night 5pm-8pm

Rump Steak and a glass of wine of your choice £12.00

Thursday Night Sizzler Night 5pm-9pm

Any Sizzler and a pint £10.50

HAPPY HOUR TIMES MONDAY—FRIDAY

2PM-6PM

Fosters	£2.50	Guinness	£2.70	Real Ales All	£2.50
Carling	£2.50	John Smiths	£2.20		
Carling premier	£2.70	Worthington's	£2.10		
Wrexham Lager	£2.50	Strongbow	£2.70		

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Answers to January Quiz

on page 14

1. South Africa
2. Reading
3. Pacific
4. Malaysia
5. 241
6. 2 days
7. Pennsylvania
8. Asia
9. 21
10. 1936

At St Martins Pharmacy we are contracted to provide NHS services to our local community. With being located close to the English/Welsh border there is often confusion with patients over prescription charges. Here are a few frequently asked questions:

Can I use a Welsh prescription in England?

Yes (subject to English prescription charges and rules)

Who is entitled to free prescriptions in England?

You can get free NHS prescriptions if, at the time the prescription is dispensed, you:

- are 60 or over
- are under 16
- are 16-18 and in full-time education
- are pregnant or have had a baby in the previous 12 months and have a valid maternity exemption certificate (MatEx)
- have a specified medical condition and have a valid medical exemption certificate (MedEx)
- have a valid prescription pre-payment certificate
- hold a valid war pension exemption certificate
- are named on a current HC2 charges certificate
- are prescribed free-of-charge contraceptives
- receive Income Support or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- are entitled to, or named on, a valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate
- have a partner who gets a Pension Credit Guarantee Credit

How much is a prescription in England?

£8.20 per item

If you need more than 12 prescribed medicines a year you could save money with a **prescription prepayment certificate** (purchase online at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc or call 0845 850 0030)

3 month prepayment certificate (PPC) - **£29.10**
12 month PPC - **£104.00**

If you are unsure whether you are entitled to free prescriptions, pay and ask for a refund form (FP57). You must apply for a refund within three months of paying the prescription charge.

If you have any queries please contact St Martins Pharmacy on 01691 778873, Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm or Sat 9am - 1pm.

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01691 778888

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Weekends 8:00-23:00

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Chocolates

£20pp

Coupon.

Free dessert with
every 2 mains
purchased.

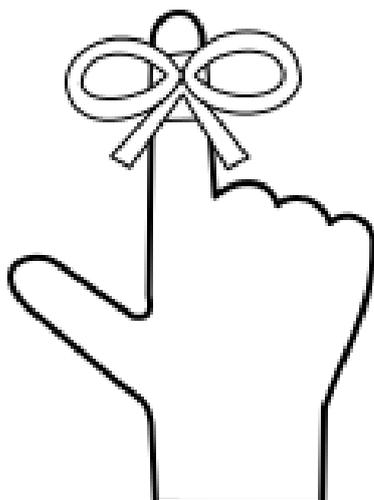
Valid until end of
February 2016

Ask about our Specials for

St. David's Day...01st March

Mother's Day ...06th March

Easter Sunday ...29th March



Especially for our local
residents

Monday to Friday:

2 Courses Menu £12.95

Different menu Choice each
day.

Freshly prepared and cooked
in-house.

Get 10% off with this

Coupon.

Valid until end of February 2016

What's on in February!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Tues 2nd	WI. Suzanne Ellison on Energy Healing.	Ifton Miners Institute Lounge	7:30pm
Tues 9th	Ifton Meadows Management Committee	St. Martins Community Centre	7:30pm
Wed 10th	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club 'Good garden plants that we don't use more often'	Weston Rhyn Institute	7:30pm
Thurs 11th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm
Sat 13th – Sun 21st	Lambing Live and Lamb Feeding	Park Hall Farm	Daily
Sat 13th	Live Band 'Like Minded'	Ifton Miners Institute	9:00pm
Sun 14th	Green Gym	Colliery Entrance	1:30pm
Mon 15th – Fri 19th	Half Term	St Martins School	
Tues 23rd	Book Club	Please ring Gwyneth on 01691 770937 for more information	7:30pm