



St Martins Football Club New Season

The new season is now well under way with the Saints having mixed results so far. We have had to field understrength sides having lost a number of good players in the close season. It takes time for the new team members to gel as a unit, but the signs are encouraging and we hope to improve in the coming weeks and push on from where we left off last season.

We now embark on a run of home games, with 6 of the next 8 games played at Park Hall (The Venue). The wide flat pitch there will play to our strengths and we hope to press visiting teams with our style of football.



To help with fund-raising the club have set up a
“100 Club”

97 members have joined so far. If anyone new wishes to join, they should contact Peter Morris on 777350 or Terry Ellis on 778208 for details.

The September monthly winner was number 33, Mr John Hands.

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A Miners' Memorial?

To have been a coal miner is to be a member of a special breed. To have been wife or child of a miner is to know intimately the demands put on him and to live with the anxiety intrinsic to the real dangers of mining. I know

only from what I have read and heard of what it took to work in a pit, the heat, the dust, the noise, the physical graft, the ever-present threats of gas, water and collapses, all taken for granted as the miner went off to his daily stint. Disaster always lurked. There is a poignant, harrowing aerial photograph of families waiting for news of loved ones at the Gresford Pit in 1934 when 266 men were lost. I have heard people in St Martins tell of the loss of fathers of young children and of the toll life in the pit took on health and lifespan.



Until 1968 St. Martin's was a mining community. It had been so since 1913 and the



evidence of Ifton Colliery prevails. There is still a Miners' Institute, and there are some mementoes in mine trucks on the green opposite Stan's supermarket and at the entrance to Ifton Meadows. The brass band has its roots in the mining community. There is a Colliery Road. The sense of community in St.Martins, intangible, yet something to be

seen and felt in the exchanges among folk in Stan's, in pubs, churches and in myriad daily encounters, derives from the mutual support so central to the life of the miner.

2018 will be the 50th anniversary of the closing of Ifton Colliery. It closed because its steep seams were too susceptible to fire and therefore deemed to be uneconomic. The impact of the closure on the village was sharp and dramatic as was to be expected. The village has recovered, of course, as has the landscape, and the pit site has evolved into other sources of production and employment. But, there remains little that reminds of the life of the miner. We want to redress this and to have something that is not only a reminder, but a tribute to the men whose lives were given to keep industry moving and to keep us warm and illuminated in our homes. Especially, we would like to remember and celebrate the place of the mine and the miners in St. Martin's by erecting a statue to mark the anniversary. Preliminary steps have been taken to consider designs and to find what funds will be needed. Once this has been established the fund-raising effort will begin. More later. Don Borland



ST MARTINS COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Summer is now officially over and Autumn is with us. Trips and falls in the garden will change to slips and falls in the bathroom, and chest pains from overwork will be swapped for breathing problems as the cold air takes a hold.

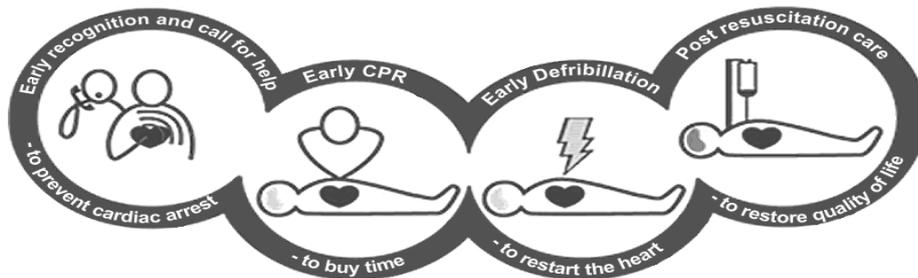
It's time to dig out our heavy fluorescent coats and soon it will be necessary to take our kit bags indoors from the car – the various machines won't work properly if they are cold.

I will be going to jobs in the early morning dark, and John will be going in the after-tea dark. Please, oh please, ensure that the name of your house is clearly visible at the point where the entrance meets the road. It's the only way we can reach you quickly.

John and I are studying hard as we have to re-qualify completely this autumn. It doesn't get any easier as we get older and neither of us has any confidence about the exams. I'll let you know if we pass or fail.



Keep well and safe, everyone. Effie



Leslie Younger
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St Martins Centre

Hi All

Well what has been happening over the summer.

July 27th the outside of the Centre had a face lift. The Community Champions from Mondezel D Crew (better known as Cadburys) came and not only painted the doors windows and rendering, but they also created a hop-scotch base in the garden (it still needs it's numbers). The Magnificent Seven worked so hard on that very warm day. Guys Thank You so much. Also Jon has finished the Dry Verging and Cladding the fascia boards, (Griffiths Tool Hire donated the scaffolding tower and our thanks goes to them too) so we are looking very tidy now.



There are still lots of things to update, such as the Fire Exit doors in the Lounge - they need replacing - and the paving slabs are in need of relaying but all this costs. Please keep supporting the Centre in its fund raising activities so that we can address these and other issues.

As for the IT equipment, we have had some wonderful support from Kronospan, Tesco's and Borderland Rotary Club who have each donated a fast laptop to interact with the Smart TV or the Digital Projector and one for the office. **A BIG THANK YOU** to all.

YOGA: I have been approached by a lady who is thinking of putting on Yoga classes. If you are interested in joining such a class can you give me a call on 770204 or call in. We need to know which days you might be able to attend and what time of day.

.....

WE NEED HELP!



Do you have a couple of hours to spare to staff the reception area at the Centre.

We are now open 5 days a week from 10am until 2pm and can get quite busy.

Can you meet and greet people and help them find what they need?

St Martins Centre

The Trustees invite you to their

AGM

On Monday 14th November 2016

7:15 for a 7:30 start

You are welcome to join us and find out more about the Centre.

If you have any ideas as to how we can make the facilities more attractive whilst preserving the income.

Have any ideas about fundraising, we want to here from you.

If you are a member or leader of a group that use the Centre currently, come and tell us how we're doing - Good or Bad!

Wild Reading?

Wild or Shared Reading has been happening in Oswestry and you may well wonder what it is. The idea is inspired by The Reader Organisation, a registered charity based in Liverpool, who have been doing it for several years and have groups all over the UK and rapidly spreading to Europe. It comes from a belief that good literature connects us to others because it expresses certain truths about what it is to be human. In realising that we are not alone in our thoughts and feelings, we can connect better with others and have the confidence to make changes if we wish.



Here in Oswestry, smallish groups of about 10 or 12 people get together, the group leader selects a short story or an extract from a novel and copies are brought along for everyone. The story is then read aloud, initially by the group leader although others may read out if they want to, but there is however no obligation to speak at all. The important thing is that everyone is following the story by listening together. Typically the piece is broken down into separate sections, allowing time for members to discuss any thoughts they may have about the piece - this might be reflections or memories, whatever comes to mind.

A poem is then read, which will have some connection to the story. Sessions last about 90 minutes.

Shared reading groups are run across the country - from London to Newcastle, in North Wales and in Devon.

Groups are run in a variety of settings, from community centres to formal institutions such as schools, old people's homes, hospitals, prisons, cafes and, as in our case, pubs and outdoors. Research done by Liverpool University suggests that in addition to the simple enjoyment of reading a good story or poem, there can be other benefits of sharing which contribute to a greater sense of well-being. It is free to attend.

The next Wild Reading will be on Apple Day October 15th in The Bailey Head Pub, Bailey Head, Oswestry at 1:00-2:30.

Everyone is welcome. In order to keep the group small, please book your place with the Library.

Tel: 01743 250360 on

You may never have read a book in your life or you may have read millions.

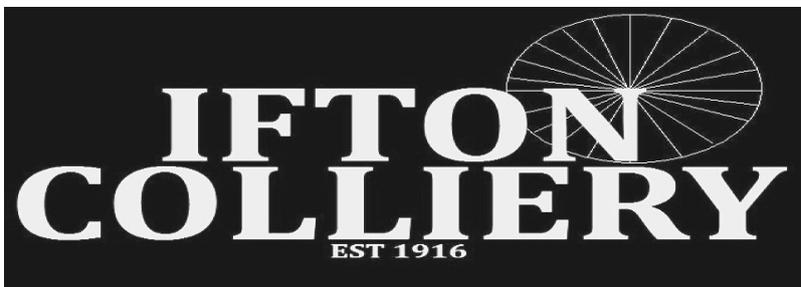
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Well the summer is well and truly behind us and the brass band season is under way! Our first contest is in Rochdale on the 23rd October, so rehearsals have already started! We have a very busy schedule ahead of us with one contest every month as well as several concerts and local engagements to attend.

Upcoming Events and Concerts

On Friday 11th November the band will once again take the stage at the Ellesmere Comrades Club in association with The Royal British Legion, to commemorate our fallen heroes in the annual Armistice Concert. We will follow this with our traditional village contribution at our own cenotaph on Sunday 13th November.

The band will hold its Christmas Extravaganza Concert at St Martins Miners Institute on Saturday 17th December. Tickets will be on sale very shortly as will raffle tickets for what promises to be a packed, fun filled seasonal evening! So don't miss out!

Mine Workers Festival, Rochdale

Our first big competition this season is the Mine Workers Festival on 14th January 2017. This annual event is held at Butlins, Skegness and includes all of the top brass bands across the country. It was traditionally just open to bands with a mining heritage. To be able to attend this contest the band will be furiously fundraising throughout the next few months to gather the funds for transportation and uniforms. If any local businesses would like to help us get to this prestigious event we would love to hear from you. We would be delighted to assist in any corporate events that may benefit from musical entertainment! Please contact us using the details below.

We are so grateful to Stans' independent superstore for their generous donation over the summer. Stans continue to support our community with understanding and passion about what it takes to run a successful community group! Peter Faulks is pictured presenting Stans' cheque to our contest secretary Jane Goff.



WATCH THIS SPACE

The band will be starting up a 'village musical outreach project' with the formation of a junior band for young players and complete beginners. More details will follow in the coming weeks, but if you would like to register your child's interest, we can then gauge interest to prepare resources.

As always, if you have any questions for the band or would like to book us for an event please contact our booking secretary Berrie Roberts on 01691 654030 or myself Rachel King (Chair) on 01691 770348

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Thursday Night Sizzler Night 5pm-9pm

Any Sizzler and a pint £10.50

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Answers to Quiz

from page 5

1. The summit of Shap Fell
2. Red
3. Pizza
4. Elton John
5. Toblerone
6. Insects
7. Six
8. Joe Louis
9. A news group
10. Sheep

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What's on in October!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Sat 1st	MacMillan Coffee Morning	Moors Chapel	10.30am - 12.30pm
Sun 2nd	Sunday Social Club	St Martins Centre	3.30pm
			10am - 12noon
Tues 4th	Village Volunteering	St Martins Centre	
Tues 4th	WI "Container Gardening"	Miners Institute Lounge	7.30pm
Sun 9th	IMMC Green Gym	Ifton Meadows	1.30 - 4pm
Thurs 13th	St Martins Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sat 15th	WI Silk Scarf Workshops	Miners Institute Lounge	10.00-12.00 & 1.30-3.30
Sat 15th	Wild Reading	Bailey Head Pub, Oswestry	1.00 - 2.30

What's on in November!

Tues 1st	WI "Llanvalley Natural Products"	Miners Institute Lounge	7.30pm
Tues 1st	Village Volunteering	St Martins Centre	10am - 12noon
Thurs 3rd	Community Wildlife Group	Weston Rhyn Institute	7pm
Sun 6th	Sunday Social Club	St Martins Centre	3.30pm
Sun 6th	IMMC Green Gym	Ifton Meadows	1.30 - 4pm
Thurs 10th	St Martins Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sun 13th	Act of Remembrance	St Martins War Memorial	10.45am
Mon 14th	St Martins Centre AGM	St Martins Centre	7.30pm

Please let us know the time and date of events in December/January for the next edition of Village Life by no later than **Friday 18th November 2016**

If you send us an article for the next edition, please bear in mind that it will be delivered at the end of September, so any events you report on will have happened before then. If you want to mention any upcoming events or activities please make sure they are in December and January (or later).



St Martins School News

We are two weeks into our exciting new academic year and already students and staff are working hard and focused on the year ahead.

We became an academy on the 1st September following a lot of hard work behind the scenes over the holidays. This means we are now part of the Priory School Trust. Michael Barratt, Principal of the Trust, has already been in to meet staff and students and has started working with the senior leadership team. Primary students have met him in their lessons and secondary students in assembly time.



We are very lucky to have the support of Michael and the team at The Priory, with its stunning academic achievements and also the continuing support of the number one non selective private school in the country Moreton Hall.

The support from Moreton Hall will continue in many ways, including our top set scientists and mathematicians in years 10 and 11 having lessons in their fabulous facilities. This year, six girls have gone from us to study at Moreton Hall for their sixth form studies on a special bursary agreement.



Our exam results at key stage 4 were fabulous and showed a huge improvement for many subject areas. 73% of our students met the government progress target in English and there was a 15% improvement in Science and further improvements in Maths. Our brighter students performed particularly well, some of them adding to their government target grades by 2 GCSE grades. In some subjects 100% of students made the government progress target.

Our family ethos and special relationships between our students and staff permeates every aspect of our school and we are very excited about the journey ahead.



Our open day and evening on the 11th of October will showcase the whole school from reception to year 11. If you are a prospective year 7 parent or if you are a current parent that hasn't visited the school please come and see the fantastic changes we have made to our school.

News and information

We congratulate Carol Jones, who is to become a mum for the second time, and will be on maternity leave from January 2017.

I would like to welcome our new staff:

Ms E Jefferys – Reception class teacher

Ms Y Carlton – Cover Supervisor

Mrs H Poulter – Administrator

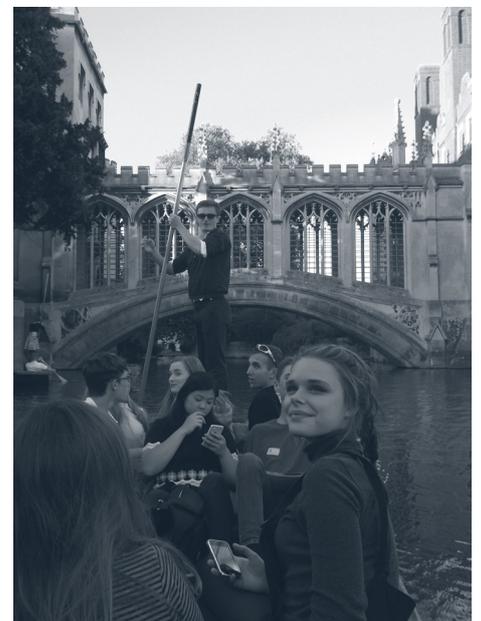
Miss A Hill – apprentice Teaching Assistant

Miss B Lloyd



Stop Press

A group of our year 11 students spent two days at Cambridge University attending lectures and experiencing what life might be like as an undergraduate at Cambridge.



New Safety campaign

helps 500 children to stand out and be seen on their walk to school



Ridgway Rentals are proud to sponsor St Martins School in a new 'Be Seen, Be Safe' road safety campaign using high visibility school bags.

Not only are the bags ideal for school books or PE kits but their high visibility could prove invaluable for the children as they travel to and from school.

Ridgway Rentals are very pleased to take part in the 'Be Seen, Be Safe' road safety initiative. The roads can be busy around the school and the majority of children walk to school so as the nights get darker, we're hoping the high visibility bags will remind drivers to slow down and show caution.



Ridgway Rentals are a local company based in St. Martins who are always keen to support the school and local community whenever possible. Hopefully the 'Be Seen, Be Safe' campaign will ensure that every child will be able to travel to and from school safely.

New Community Wildlife Group to be launched

Are you interested in local wildlife? Anyone who lives or works in or near Weston Rhyn, St Martins, Selattyn or Gobowen and has an interest in wildlife is invited to an open meeting at Weston Rhyn Village Institute on Thursday 3rd November at 7pm.



The aim of the meeting is to gauge the level of local interest in creating a new local Community Wildlife Group.

The aims and objectives of a Community Wildlife Group include



- Bringing together people interested in wildlife
- Undertaking survey work to establish the status of key bird, plant and butterfly species and habitats
- Encouraging and enhancing local interest in wildlife
- Actively promoting conservation

Interest in the area and enthusiasm are far more important than detailed knowledge. Experts can help each group, and provide training for those who want it. You can commit as little of your time as you can spare and also enjoy meeting other likeminded people. Individuals and families will be most welcome please come along on the 3rd November for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee.



If you are interested but are unable to attend the meeting, or if you just want more information,

please telephone Polly on 01691 239087.

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