

# Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

You may already have heard the good news, but it is confirmed by the lady herself in this issue of the magazine, that Effie Cadwallader has now been re-instated as one of our Community First Responders.

At Village Life we found the whole story of her dismissal quite incredible. How anyone could take such an arbitrary and silly decision given her long-standing service and commitment to the local community over many years we just could not understand.

It is however reassuring that the management at West Midlands Ambulance Service has had the good sense to correct what was clearly an unjust outcome.

We look forward to seeing Effie Cadwallader and John Roberts back on our streets (or rather in their highly visible car!) providing their invaluable service to residents of St Martins and the surrounding area.

As you can see, this issue is back to the normal 40 pages, so thanks for the response from contributors. Can I please remind everyone however that, in order to keep the magazine both full and easy to read, we do ask that articles for publication are kept down to about 300 words – and are accompanied by pictures that support and illustrate the content.

Finally, another request for help with deliveries. We need someone to take on the delivery of future issues to Greenfields. The round consists of 62 homes, so if you are willing to join our team of volunteers please get in touch by phoning me on 01691 770677 or send me an email at [hjohn.stevens@btinternet.com](mailto:hjohn.stevens@btinternet.com)

John Stevens (Chair of the Editorial Committee)

.....  
**If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication  
please email it to [stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com)  
by no later than Friday 12th May 2017**

.....  
**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](http://www.stmartins-online.org.uk/villagelife)

This publication will be delivered FREE to every household within the Parish of St Martins.  
Should you not get one please email  
[stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com)

**There is a large print version at the St Martin Centre for  
people with sight impairment.**

# Parish Council

## From the Chair

It is with great disappointment that I have to report that I have not received any nominations for the **UNsung HERO AWARD**. Is there no one who is deserving of this award in our village?

On to more exciting things. The **Miner's Get Together** was a great success bringing together around 120 people to chat and catch up with old mates. Your Parish Council is very happy to support this initiative to commemorate the closure of Ifton Colliery in 1968. It helps to preserve the History and Heritage of St Martins as well as providing an educational resource.

The **budget** for the next year has been set and I happy to say that our village precept (the part of the overall Council Tax set by the Parish Council) will not change this year. Upgrading the street lighting and switching off the lights at night has reduced the cost of this service, while the increase in the amount of homes in the village (generating more income) together with other savings has allowed us to keep the precept at the same level.



Over the coming year we will continue to discuss with Shropshire Council whether other services such as grass cutting in the children's play areas and some open spaces can be taken on locally. More information about devolved services will come along in due course.

**War Memorial.** You may have noticed that some of the lettering on the plinth of the cross is eroding. Your council is working towards having the whole structure cleaned. After that has been completed, the lettering will be reassessed with a view to having them recut. This could be quite a costly process, but we hope to apply to the War Graves Commission for help in this activity.



In May there will be **Local Elections** for our representative on Shropshire Unitary Council. Also, if more than 15 people nominated for the Parish Council that will mean an election is needed. Anyone who thinks their skills would be a useful addition to our council should contact Shropshire Council by email at [elections@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@shropshire.gov.uk) or by phone on **0345 678 9015**. Completed nominations need to be in by 4pm on the 4th April. If you wish to talk to me about how councils work please get in touch, you'll find my telephone number on the next page.

Please accept my personal invitation to the **Annual Meeting of the Parish** on Thursday 20th April at 7pm at St Martins Centre. This is an opportunity to share with the rest of the community what your group has been doing over the last 12 months or to let others know about a new group that you are setting up.

Sue Schofield

# Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

The main discussion at the start of the March meeting at St Martins Centre was about **outstanding police issues** and lack of police presence at recent meetings. At the February meeting it was agreed to write to John Campion, West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner, pointing out that St Martins Parish Council feel they are the poor relation when it comes to police matters. Although the local police team had been consulted to agree the most suitable time for police officers to attend a time of 7.30pm for police reports set for every parish council agenda, officers never seem available to attend. Trying to get up-to-date local information is proving impossible. Councillors were told parish councils in Whittington, Weston Rhyn and Gobowen often had a police presence – but that no-one was ever available to attend meetings at St Martins.

PCSO Dave Hughes was in attendance at this meeting and gave the following report.

**Kimberley Lane:** The SNT do carry out high visibility checks in the area and have previously completed leaflet drops and visited workplaces. It has been an issue for a number of years and at some point in that time consideration was given to blocking one end off, in essence making it a cul-de-sac. The police understand that while initially not all the residents agreed to this, it is being looked at again by SC highways department and, subject to cost, may go ahead in the future.

**Moors Bank:** They will request that one of the PCSOs does a speed survey at Moors Bank and feedback their results. Regarding the report of lack of warning signs as you approach the mini island opposite the school the police said that the Parish Council should take this issue to Highways outlining what they feel is required.

**Bus Stop Parking, Top of Moors Bank:** Warning notices have been placed on vehicles and some owners have been spoken too. This is a proportionate stepped approach in the first instance.

Another area that was discussed was whether to register with Shropshire Council a formal interest in taking on the responsibility for a number of amenity grass and open areas including parks and play areas from April 2018. This would only be acceptable to the Parish Council on a freehold basis. Areas being considered include Laburnum Close, Juniper Close, Cherry Tree Drive, Churchfields, Greenfields and Cottage Lane.

**Ifton Heath School:** Members of the Parish Council along with Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport have had initial discussions with officers from Shropshire Council over the future of the former school site. These talks were very encouraging and the officers are now going to come back with outline proposals for this site.

**Grants:** The Parish Council agreed a grant of £300 to the 1st St Martins Brownies towards travel costs to RAF Cosford Museum.

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on the 13th April 2017 at 7pm at St Martins Community Centre and the Annual Parish Meeting on the 20th April 2017 at 7pm at St Martins Community Centre before the Local Council elections on the 4th May 2017.

Edward Davies Fellow ILCM,  
St Martins Parish Clerk.

<u>Current Parish Councillors</u>	
Ashley Allum	01691 770042
Andrew Cast	01691 773389
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
Nina Mistry	01691 657324
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
Lesley-Anne Roberts	01691 776438
John Lewis	01691 774676
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*  
Tel 07944097876 Email [steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk)

I'm using my article in this issue of Village Life to give you an update on the future of the former Ifton Heath Primary School site.

Although the site has been released to Shropshire Council ownership for disposal, I have been able to persuade them not to simply sell it to developers. Instead, they agreed to send a couple of Shropshire Officers to discuss the potential and possible future of the site with myself and a working group from the Parish Council.

At a very useful and productive meeting at the old school site, we concluded that it was important to keep at least the main school building - and possibly more - as the heart of a mixed development for business, social and housing use. We saw this as a mixture of offices and craft workshops, with perhaps a café, plus a mixture of low cost houses and bungalows for sale and rent, with the possibility of warden facilities for the elderly.

The next step is for Shropshire Council to develop an outline plan for the site based on these ideas and to come back for further detailed discussions with the Parish Council.

Please let me know your reaction to this approach and put forward any ideas you might want to add to those we already have.

As always, my contact details are above, or I can be reached through St Martins Centre.  
Steve Davenport.

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## Spanish Classes at the St. Martins Community Centre



Hi, my name is Gail and I am the Spanish tutor at the St. Martin's Centre. Are you interested in **learning Spanish** or **improving the Spanish language that you have already acquired?** Here at the St Martin's Centre there are Spanish classes open to all throughout the year.

The next 8 week Spanish courses will begin after the Easter break.

If you are interested in attending either an improver's or a beginners course please contact the Centre on 01691 770204 or just pop along to see what we have to offer. If you need any further information just leave your details and I will contact you.

We look forward to meeting you.



# St. Martins Parish Church

## Service Times:

**Sunday:** 9.30 a.m. our usual Morning Worship Service

## **Sunday FIRST Messy Church**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May at 11 a.m.** A short family service with songs, Bible story and prayer



And afterwards coffee, cake and some craft activities

## Weekly Events:

**Home Groups:** One of the best ways to meet other people and to participate in the life of the church is to join a small group. These meet at different times – please contact for details

**Tuesdays:** Coffee morning at 10.30 a.m. in the Chapter House

**Thursdays:** 9.30 a.m. Mid week service in church

**Fridays:** 7.30 p.m. St Martins and Weston Rhyn Church Youth Group (12-19 years) currently meeting at St Johns Weston Rhyn. Info: Janet on: 777396

**OUR EASTER DAY SERVICE is on the 16<sup>th</sup> April at 10 a.m. when the Bishop of Shrewsbury, Mark Rylands, will be leading our service.**

**There will be an Easter Egg hunt following the service so please come along and join the fun.**

## **Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals.**

We welcome all enquiries and will be pleased to give advice on any matter concerning such events.

**To book a Baptism or Wedding and for any other enquiry please contact:**

Val Thompson on 01691 658756: email: [valerie100a@aol.com](mailto:valerie100a@aol.com)

Or check out our Website [www.stmartinsparish.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsparish.co.uk)



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# IFTON COLLIERY

## COMMEMORATIVE PROJECT

Well, what a very special night we had at the “Miners’ Get Together”. 120 people came together from as far as Wrexham to enjoy an evening with friends and old mates. Hotpot was served and there were lots of prizes for the raffle. Paul Milner, Mayor of Oswestry, officiated at the raffle, picking out the first then offering around the box to the audience to pick the others.

It was quite hard to stop them chatting and listen to the Chair of the committee giving information about the two short listed statues . One was by Paul Flure in conjunction with Stokes of England and the other by George Triggs in conjunction with Castle Foundry of Llanrhaeadr.

A vote was taken on the night and followed up on Facebook. The majority vote was for the Bronze standing statue and this was confirmed by the 2 ex-miners on the committee at their last meeting.

The Chair also told the audience about one of the fundraising initiatives, a bespoke medal (pictured below) to commemorate the closure. This has been designed by George Triggs and will be a limited edition of 500. It is

hoped to be available for sale around the end of May at a cost of £25 and can be pre-ordered by sending your name and address including your postcode, telephone number and email address if you have one, to Mrs S Schofield at 6 Greenfields, St Martins. Oswestry SY11 3AG or email the detail to [suescho@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suescho@hotmail.co.uk)

Our Chair is doing a sponsored swim now set to take place on 9th April at 11:30. She will attempts 66 lengths in an hour (one for every year of her life) at St Martins Swimming Pool (at the school). Support and encouragement will be needed on the day if you care to come.

We are planning other events and the next one will be **Dyffryn Ceiriog Male Voice Choir** at St Martins Institute on May 13th at 7:30. Look out for Tickets costing £5. There will be some nibbles on the tables and we will also run a raffle.





## St Martins F C

Our club has seen many changes over the recent weeks and months, we now however, seem to be making good progress on and off the field. The appointment of Dan Stevens as our new manager and some new faces in the team, has paid dividends with much improved performances and results.

Two outstanding wins against Tipton Town, 7 - 2 at home and 2 - 1 away galvanised the team in their determination to avoid relegation. Another fine win, away at Wrens Nest by 3 goals to 1, was witnessed by many travelling supporters. With a number of home fixtures ahead of us we would like to encourage more people to come along to the Venue at Park Hall to support us.

Off the field the club are pursuing options for a new pitch in the village, which will comply with regulations set out by the West Midland League. The task is a daunting one, however at the moment the signs are good! Anyone who feels they maybe able to help in this project are very welcome to come along to our monthly meetings - for details contact Peter Morris 01691 777350 or Terry Ellis 01691 778208.

On the social and fundraising side Shawn Melusi is now working hard in this area and plans are being put in place for an event in the near future. Ridgway Rentals have been excellent in their continued support and we thank them. The Keys hosted a fun evening and dinner in February which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

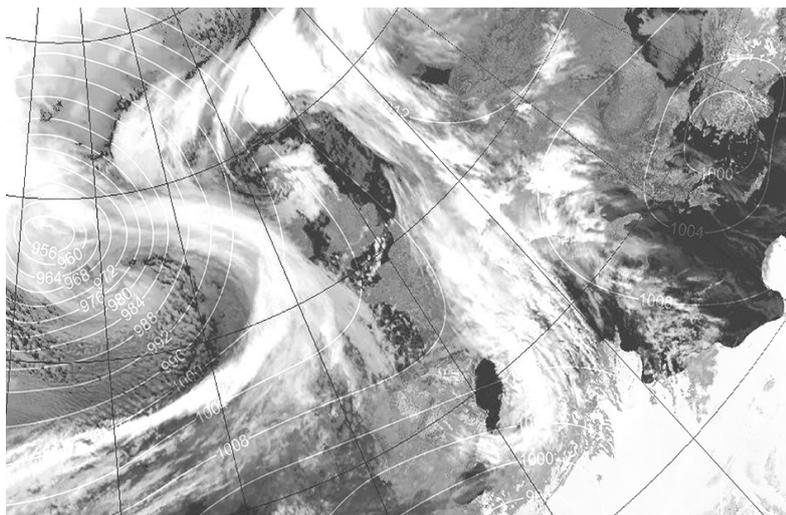
The committee are also exploring the possibility of having a youth tournament in the village to encourage more youngsters in the area to participate in the sport. It had been suggested that a youth competition be organised between local clubs and we feel this would be a positive step forward to promote our club.

Peter and Terry



# St Martins Allotment Association

Storm Doris did her worst and caused quite a bit of damage at the allotments. One shed was uprooted and tipped over. Water butts went walkabout, pea and bean frames were twisted, bent and cast aside. Brassica frames collapsed while compost bin covers took off like drones! All in all though the damage could have been a lot worse. At home I lost 2 panes of glass from the (heated) greenhouse. Fortunately, they did not break so we were able to refit them fairly easily. Another plot holder told me that he lost his lightweight greenhouse and was eventually informed that it had ended up in the churchyard from where he was able to rescue it.



A few days with a bit of sunshine has got us out and about getting seed potatoes planted and preparing to plant seeds to 'bring on' for planting out later. Spring is definitely on it's way (we hope).

We still have plots available if anyone wants to do some hard work of digging and planting, but the rewards are well worth it. Please contact myself, Val Williamson, on 01691 770105, email [redvalerian2@btinternet.com](mailto:redvalerian2@btinternet.com) or Tony Hall on 01691 777952 if you are interested.

**Happy gardening**



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(Ellesmere Road)

Minister: Rev. Heather Wilson 01691 769164

**Thursday Coffee Mornings 10.30 - 11.30**

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	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	April 9 <sup>th</sup>	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	April 30 <sup>th</sup>
St Martins	Molyneux 11.00	Messy Church 11.00	Oswestry 10.45	Rev Shoreman 10.00	Moors 11.00
Moors	At St Martins	At St Martins	Oswestry 10.45	Rev Watkins 11.00	Jackson 11.00
	May 7 <sup>th</sup>	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	May 21 <sup>st</sup>	May 28 <sup>th</sup>	
St Martins	Walker 10.00	Rev Wilson 10.00	Molyneux 10.00	M Bennett 10.00	
Moors	Molyneux 11.00	Rev Wilson 11.00	Edlington 11.00	Roberts 11.00	

## ST MARTINS METHODIST CHURCH

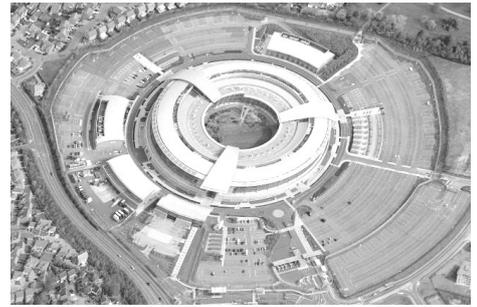


Join us for some PALM SUNDAY fun!  
SUNDAY April 9<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am

# MARCH 2017 QUIZ

Answers on page 28

1. What type of creature is a Shrike?
2. What nationality was F1 driver Jack Brabham?
3. In the abbreviation GCHQ what does the C stand for?
4. Who scored a hat trick for Arsenal v Southampton in this year's 4<sup>th</sup> round of the FA cup?
5. Which English city was the birth place of Charles Dickens?
6. Harry the Hornet is the mascot of which English Premier League football club?
7. In terms of population what is Africa's largest city?
8. Ailurophobia is the fear of which popular pet?
9. Who wrote the 2011 children's comedy book Gangsta Granny?
10. In which month is Bastille Day celebrated in France?



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# Police Report

## Suspicious Incidents

There have recently been some suspicious incidents in the St. Martins area where someone is believed to have been trying door handles. Please bear this in mind and make sure you keep your homes safe and secure. There is home security guidance on our internet site should you wish to know more.



## Bus Stop Parking – Moors Bank

It has been brought to my attention that parking in the bus stop on Moors Bank has become a problem. This has been resulting in the bus having to stop on the road forcing passengers to have to alight on the road. I would urge residents not to see the bus stop as additional parking and to ask the same of your visitors. That way children, elderly people and all other bus users can alight the bus in safety. I will be monitoring this situation over the coming weeks and reporting those who continue to cause an obstruction.



**As always, please feel free to contact me should you have anything you wish to discuss.**

PC 3718 Katie Le'Clere  
Oswestry Rural North, Safer Neighbourhoods Team  
Mobile – 07792 774024  
E-Mail - [oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)



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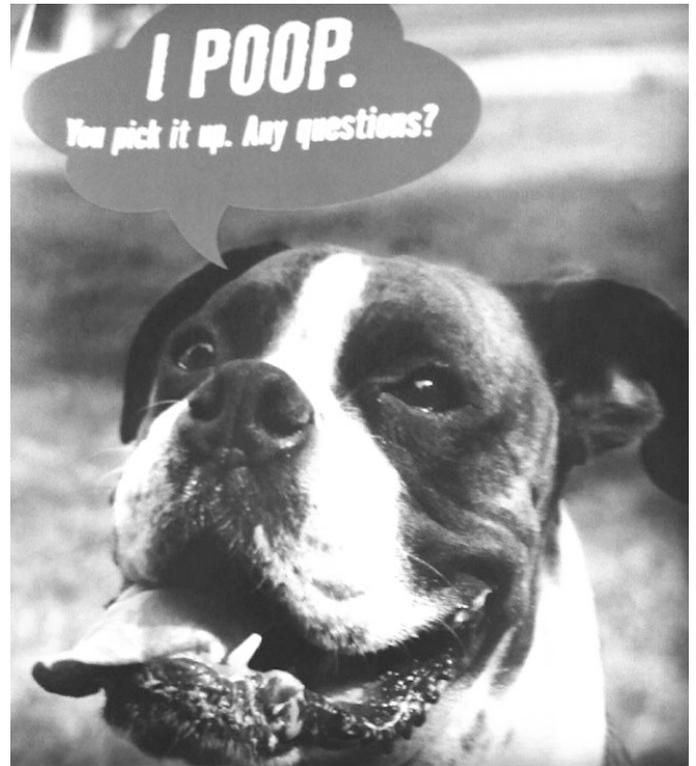
**Cardiac Risk in the Young**

# It Goes On

While it is the right thing to pick up after your dog, it is not the right thing to put it in someone's empty recycling box, hidden beneath another one. The bag was not even tied, so the dog mess fell out and had to be cleaned up again only off my utility room floor!!

Whoever the culprit is and is hopefully reading this, knows who they are and I would ask them to refrain from doing this in the future and take the dog mess home and put it in their own bin.

From a disgruntled St. Martins resident.



*There have also been reports of poo-bags being thrown on to the Footballers dug-out on the playing field and if that is not bad enough, others climbing on to the dug-out and kicking the bag on to the football pitch.*

*This behaviour disgusting and has a potential of causing someone to go blind from the bugs (Campylobacteriosis) that are contained in all dog faeces !*

## Glanrywern Farm

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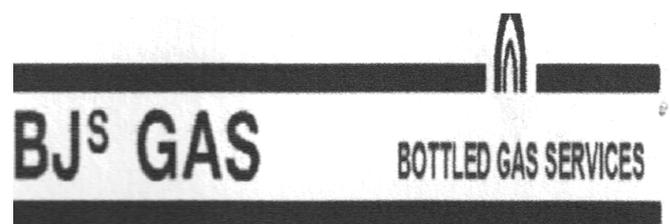
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Office is Open Monday - Friday 10am till 2pm

*Our aim is to provide a facility which is friendly,  
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Charge for use of any one room £10 per hour to include use of kitchen.

## **I.T. Drop-in Sessions, St Martins Centre,** **Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm**

Do you need help with your computers or tablets?

Think you might have a virus on your laptop?

No computer at home and need to get on the Internet?

Got a new iPad or Android tablet and don't know how to use it?

Want to improve the look of your documents, or create a clever spreadsheet?

Need to set up your email, or suddenly can't access it any more?

Keith & John offer friendly help and instruction, no matter what your present level of skills. Just drop in at St Martins Centre any Tuesday between 10am and 2pm and we'll try to sort you out. No charge for our time, but any contributions to the Centre would be welcomed.

Free WiFi available.

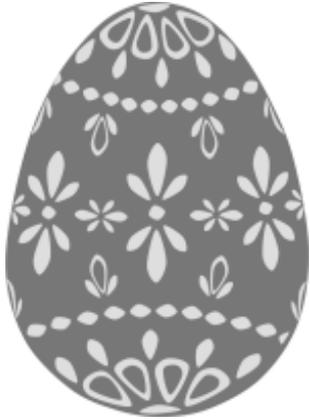
# **ST MARTINS CENTRE**

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**Watch local press for details about DEFIBRILATOR situated on outside of Centre.**



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

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**The Village FC football team** has had a pretty good February as far as results are concerned by winning three games out four home and away. The weather in February has had it's ups and downs but we have managed to fulfil our fixtures keeping us on track for a middle of May finish.

The Village Football Club held a Race Night at The Keys at the beginning of March to raise funds to see them through to the end of the season and would like to thank all the local businesses who supported them ie:- The Keys, Beterskill, St. Martins

Pharmacy, Premier Bodies, Charlotte Harter Foundation, Chirk Service Station, Dave-Mend-All & Border Temperature Control. The Night was a success and the Club held a meeting and decided to give a donation to The First Responders.

Please come and watch and support us !

**"BRINGING FOOTBALL BACK TO THE VILLAGE"**

**Results**

DATE	TIME	HOME	AWAY
L 04/02/17	19:00	St Martins Village	1 - 3 Newport Town Reserves
L 25/02/17	19:00	St Martins Village	10 - 0 Alburgham FC
L 18/02/17	19:00	AF/C Broseley	1 - 2 St Martins Village
L 11/02/17	19:00	St Martins Village	1 - 4 Brown Cle
L 04/02/17	14:00	St Martins Village	7 - 1 Riverside
L 28/01/17	19:00	Denso	1 - 3 St Martins Village
L 21/01/17	14:00	St Martins Village	2 - 2 Oakengates Rangers
L 14/01/17	14:00	St Martins Village	4 - 2 FC Necessary Res

**Fixtures**

DATE	TIME	HOME	AWAY	VENUE
L 11/03/17	14:30	St Martins Village	Stoke Heath	HMP Stoke Heath
L 18/03/17	19:00	St Martins Village	Shrewsbury Juniors	St Martins Playing Fields
L 25/03/17	19:00	Craven Arms Town	St Martins Village	CASCA
L 01/04/17	19:00	Maskeley Sports Res	St Martins Village	Phoenix Sports Centre grass #2
L 08/04/17	19:00	Brown Cle	St Martins Village	Hall Meadows, Chesbury North
L 15/04/17	19:00	St Martins Village	St Georges United	St Martins Playing Fields
L 22/04/17	19:00	Alburgham FC	St Martins Village	Look Road Complex
L 29/04/17	19:00	Riverside	St Martins Village	Oldbury Wells School

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# What's on in April!

Sat 1st	Friends of Chirk Hospital Rummage Sale	Chirk Town Hall	10am - 12 noon,
Sun 2nd	Sunday Social Club	St Martins Centre	3:30pm
Wed 5th	WI Gillian Sturgess Cake Decorating	St Martins Institute	7:30opm
Sun 9th	IMMC - Green Gym	Colliery Entrance	1:30pm
Tues 11th	IMMC	St Martins Centre	7:30pm
Wed 12th	Easter Egg-stravaganza	St Martins Centre	11:00am
Wed 12th	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club Water Features	Weston Rhyn Institute	7:30pm
Thurs 13th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm
Thurs 20th	Annual Meeting of the Parish	St Martins Centre	7:00pm
Sat 29th	Drag Act and Tilly Swats In aid of Pancreatic Cancer	Chirk Royal British Legion	7:00pm Free entry