

'The Stute'

The Ifton Miners Institute, also known to many of us as 'The Stute' has been a treasure in many people's hearts since opening in 1932 by the Miners of Ifton Colliery pit. The building, now 85 years old, still stands today in memory of the workers and we hope that the club brings pride and fond memories to family and friends.

Many social and fundraising events are held in our function rooms, which are available to hire for your occasions, at no charge. With many options available for catering and with reasonable priced draught beer ranging from £2.35 to £2.90 a pint, parties are very cost friendly.

Good luck to our pool and darts teams, starting their seasons representing The Ifton Miners. Come and show your support to our pool team on Thursday evenings and darts team on Friday evenings. The pool table and dart board are available to use, except during match nights by our customers. Additionally, we have 4 full sized snooker tables available, which are kept to a very high standard.

The club has a county standard bowling green, which is enjoyed by both men, women and youngsters alike. We support four different league teams competing in the Whitchurch, Oswestry, Shropshire Tanners and Flowfit Shropshire premier league. Congratulations to our premier team, who recently played in the Shropshire County cup final and qualified for British Champion of Champions. Ifton bowling club is always looking to recruit new members so please feel free to contact us. The premier league is back!!

All live Sky sports and BT sports games are shown on big screen. The bar has a great pub atmosphere and everyone is welcome.

It is brilliant to hear that due to the Ifton Colliery Commemorative Project, in the near future a statue in memory of the Miners will be placed in the village. A great amount of fundraising is taking place in



order to make this happen, with the next event being held at the Ifton Miners.

Come along to listen to James Lambert singers on Friday 13th October at 7:30pm. Tickets are £7 from the committee members, the Ifton Miners or on the door.

We hope to continue to see members and non members alike, appreciating what we have in the centre of our village. Our opening times are from 7pm during the week, 5pm on a Saturday and 3pm on a Sunday. However, these times may vary, depending on football fixtures. All members of the community are welcome as it is essential that we recognise the full worth of the facilities available.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries, you can contact us on 01691 773304 or add us as a friend on Facebook 'Ifton Miners' to keep up to date with our events.

Hello my name is Moira Glead and I am the Dystonia Society's volunteer co-ordinator for the North Wales and Shropshire Borders branch. I arrange meetings several times a year, both at St. Martins Centre and at Craig y Don Sports Centre in Llandudno, where people with this rare neurological movement disorder and their families and friends meet, sometimes with a speaker but mainly to support each other. There are 15 different types ranging from generalised (whole body) to focal (affecting one or more areas). It is estimated that it affects at least 70,000 people in the UK.

For those of you who have not heard of our condition I will try to explain a little about it. Dystonia is the term used to describe uncontrollable and sometimes painful muscle spasms caused by incorrect signals thought to come from the part of the brain called the basal ganglia. It can be inherited, or you can acquire it, i.e. no known cause. This also occurs with other conditions, for example Cerebral Palsy.

These faulty signals cause muscles to spasm and pull on the body incorrectly. This forces the body into twisting, repetitive movements or abnormal postures which can be permanent or sporadic. There is as yet no cure but by combining treatment with pain control and sensory tricks to help with social situations - most people manage to develop successful strategies for living. Remission from symptoms does sometimes occur but is rare.

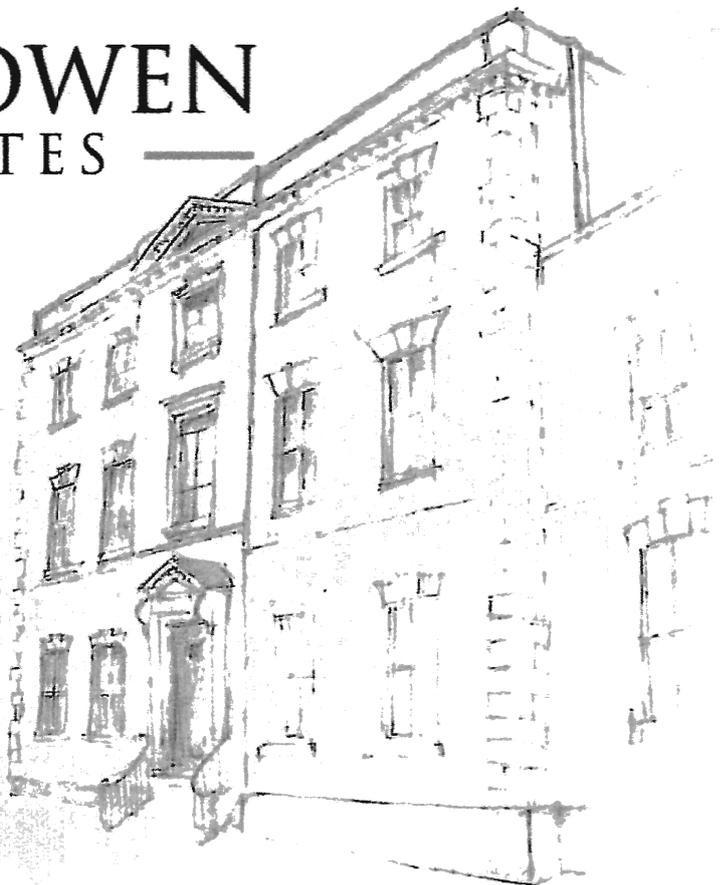
If you know someone with Dystonia or just want more information get in touch.

If local call me on 0845 899 1060 or the Dystonia Society 020 7793 3651/helpline 020 7793 3650 or visit the website www.dystonia.org.uk Moira Glead



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4. Rugby Union (Lock)
5. Boxing (Light-welterweight World Champion)
6. Athletics (Middle distance runner. First person to do the 4 minute mile)
7. Field Hockey (Goalkeeper)
8. Cricket (All-rounder)
9. Athletics (Track & Field)
10. Equestrian (3 Day Eventing)

Answers to Sept Quiz
From page 26

Condolences

Den Baines died on 17th August in Wrexham Hospital. He'll be sadly missed.

Bronwen Williams died on 31st August in Shrewsbury Hospital. RIP

Our deep commiserations to their family and friends and to all those who have lost loved ones, please email us with information for a mention here.



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Ifton Meadows

Management Committee

You will have noticed that Shropshire Council have been doing their annual cut on Ifton Meadows. The removal of the ragwort has been a great help to the friends this year, we usually spend many workdays pulling/digging out the ragwort and as we get older the amount we can remove gets less, so although the area near the mosaic looks shorn it will soon recover and hopefully in the future we will have less of it on site. We do not want to remove it all because it is the main food of the Cinnabar Moth and we are a Local Nature Reserve. This year we have seen a number of Cinnabar Moth caterpillars - known by local children as 'Tigger tails' which is a good sign - numbers of Cinnabar Moths on site have declined over the years, possibly because we have been removing the plants. Shropshire Council have received complaints from neighbouring landowners about ragwort and as it is a notifiable plant they have to remove it.



A lovely warm evening on August 10th saw us down at the Meadows to give a guided walk to 10 members of Pant WI. We started at the Colliery entrance up the pathway to mosaic, down through the back gate by Pen y banc, re-entering the Nature Reserve at the bottom of Prices Dingle, then up through the Dingle and back to the Colliery entrance.

We have just received confirmation of a £1000 grant from Tesco's 'Bags of Help', this will go towards 3 new interpretation boards for the site and a new leaflet. Thank you if you supported us by putting your tokens in the Ifton Meadows box in the Ellesmere store. Due to strong opposition from the two Ellesmere Schools, we did not manage to get enough tokens to obtain the full amount we asked for, so before we can start we need to find more money. Just a small hiccup which should shortly be sorted, so watch this space for future details.



Sunday Social Club



Our Social Club has now been running for ten months and our numbers are growing. Our ladies and some gentleman (and we could really do with a few more gentlemen attendees) have a great time with lots of conversation, cups of tea or coffee sandwiches and cake, quizzes, music and the like.

**The Club takes place at 3.30pm on the first Sunday of each month
at St. Martins Centre Lounge.**

The next meetings will be on

1st Oct then 5th Nov

Please do come along.

If you wish further details please contact Mrs Valerie Thompson on 01691 658756.

If you have difficulty in travelling to the centre it may be possible to arrange transport for you.



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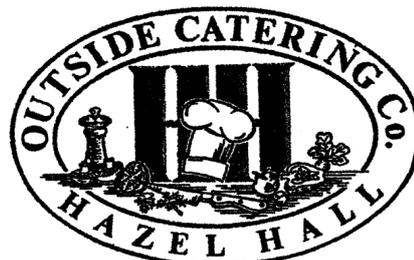
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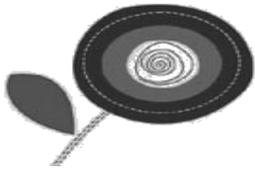
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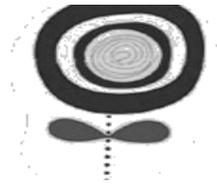
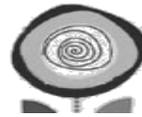
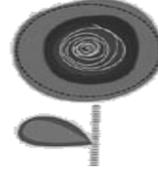
AUGUST Report

We had an outing on 1st August to Gregynog Hall and Gardens, situated near Newtown, Powys. This included a guided tour of the hall and a talk on the history of the hall, the families who lived there and the development of the gardens

over the years. We were then free to go round the hall and gardens at our leisure. We finished with refreshments and the most delicious cakes.



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



SEPTEMBER Report

At our meeting on 5th September we had 10 visitors. our President, Shirley Willis, welcomed everyone. We went through our newsletter and various items of business. She thanked all the members who had entered and done well in the Oswestry Show. She also congratulated the ladies who had worked so hard on the Table Top entry which gained 2nd place.

Our speaker for the evening was Norma Walmsley. She had been a teacher to the children of the King of Brunei which is a very small country on the north coast of the island of Borneo in southeast Asia. It is small but the king is the second richest man in the world due to the oil revenues. The slides showing photos of the huge palace showed the amazing opulence. Norma commented to a servant dusting a staircase that all that brass to polish must be a great chore. He replied no madam you don't have to polish gold!!! She was even flown by private jet to Singapore to shop for things for the school. The children were so delightful and Norma stayed with them for 10 years. She had a fascinating life there, but the children were going on to higher education so her time there came to an end. An informative and entertaining speaker, she was thanked by Shirley Willis.

Our competition of 3 tomatoes was won by Shirley Willis with Linda Standish 2nd and Angela Ree 3rd. The exhibition of a perfume bottle was won by Alice Wilding, 2nd Pam Doyle, 3rd Linda Standish.

Our evening finished with a "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" quiz. Next month on 3rd October we will be having Libby Morris arranging a bunch of supermarket flowers. Visitors and new members are very welcome. You can find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com

VISITERS NOTE: Access to the lounge at the 'Stute is at the back of the property.

St.Martins W.I.

Are hosting a Tea-party for the elderly at the
Chapter House
on Sunday 19th of November 2pm-4pm.

If you live alone and are 70 plus you are invited.

Please ring for details and your invitation
Shirley Willis - 777807 or Pam Doyle - 777034



Motorbikes

Did you look at the picture below? If so you might be interested in motor cycles. I am thinking of forming a motor cycle club for anyone who owns, has owned or is just interested in, two wheels.

Every time I go out on my bike in the village or to Oswestry, when I park up people come over and chat about bikes,

It may be older British or Japanese bikes, modern or any type, just an interest in two wheels. Also I know there are quite a few ladies who are interested, you are welcome to come along.

If there is enough interest, 10 people or more, I was thinking of starting meetings at St Martins Centre (next to Stan's) on the first Monday of each month from 7 until 9 in the evening.

Meetings will not be formal, but just a chance to chat to other like minded enthusiasts and take whatever course people wish. Things such as sharing magazines and technical tips. I am a competent mechanic, but when it comes to electrics, panic sets in!

We could perhaps arrange trips to the bike show at the NEC in November by train or to other shows, race meetings, etc.

For those with bikes, maybe we could arrange runs out in the summer.

There will have to be a charge of £2 per person to cover hire of rooms. If there is anyone interested please email me at davidstanleyo@yahoo.co.uk, phone me on 770397, or visit the Centre on any Friday between 10am and 2pm (when I am on duty as a volunteer for the day.)

First meeting on 2nd October 7 until 9

Many Thanks Dave Onions



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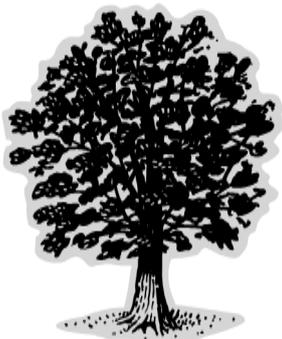
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Change

In the last issue of 'Village Life' I wrote about how change had affected the lives of two ex-miners, Terry Ellis and Ken Hinton. I suppose any generation will be aware of the discomfort and the stimulation that change can bring. 'Why can't things just remain the same?' 'It wasn't like that in my day.' 'It's nice to do something new.' The discomfort and the sense of anticipation come at each stage of change: before, when it's awaited, during, while it's happening, and afterwards, when we have to live with consequences. In the four and a half years that I have lived in St. Martin's I have seen and felt change in my own life and in the life of the village, the most visible being the building of new housing. From where I live I have heard the sounds of construction coming across the fields and watched new houses appear. More houses, more people, a changed environment for the established and a new, exciting one for the newcomer. What these two groups of people have in common is the current experience of the impact of change on their lives, some greeting it eagerly, others more resistant. Change means loss, for the most part, of the familiar. Change makes demands, to adjust to the new, to mourn the loss of the old, to re-make, re-group, hopefully accept, even embrace the new, maybe with generosity and signs of welcome.

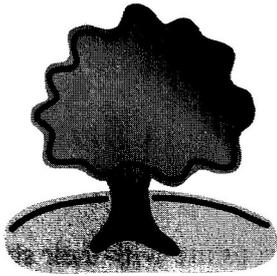
Any community has a history, an evolutionary trace, identifiable in St. Martin's by means of three examples among others. Ifton Colliery came and went over fifty-plus years and its closure will be commemorated next year. Stan's Supermarket, a striking example of how a business can evolve, is celebrating its 70th anniversary now. St. Martin's Parish Church, whose name it gave to the village, is changed and unchanged, 400 year-old bells still pealing, meeting challenges, new and old, daily and eternally. More change awaits in the housing development to come on Rhos-y-Llan Farm.

But...the more things change the more they remain the same. One can read the ancients, Greek and Roman, and hear the old bemoaning the behaviour and attitudes of the young. Mark Twain remarked on how inept and foolish his father was when Mark was fourteen, and how wise he had become when he reached twenty-one. The old have the benefit of hindsight and diminished energy. The young have abundant energy and very slowly developing hindsight. We are human! Also, we are a community and maybe something gets into a community's DNA from how it has evolved. I am conscious that in this respect there is more than a lingering legacy of St. Martin's as a mining community. I walk around the village and people smile and say 'Hello' and 'Good morning' and probably mention the weather. Change has not, in my experience, stopped that sort of thing. Mums, and Dads, take their children to and from school. Pubs are still places of conviviality. Pensioners meet in Stan's cafe. This journal gives an account of variety and activity among us all. There are constants and there are new challenges. It really would be nice if we could *settle*. On the other hand we do need a bit of a shake-up from time to time. I guess it's all about being alive.

Don Borland



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Three Parishes Big Local Update



School Saver Clubs

Over the last year pupils at Gobowen and Weston Rhyn Primary Schools have been saving through an exciting project, funded by Three Parishes Big Local. The School Saver Club project helps pupils learn how to save and manage money. Supported by FAIRshare Credit Union, year 6 pupils at each school have been running weekly School Saver Clubs; open to all children attending the school. Membership is free, and children can deposit as little or as much as they wish.

The schools and pupils have worked extremely hard at the savings clubs and between the 2 schools they have saved an incredible £6,216.07.

Pupils can join the club at any time. Application forms are available from the school or from FAIRshare Credit Union's website <http://www.fairshare.uk.com/gobowen-primary-school-saver-club-2/>

We are currently working with St Martins School and are hopeful they will launch their own School Saver Club very soon.

My Money Matters

You may know that we have commissioned Citizens Advice Shropshire to deliver a 'My Money Matters' programme in your area. Karen Williams, the Community Advisor, holds weekly drop-ins in Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn to help residents with Budgeting; Income maximisation; Switching tariffs; Welfare benefits; Debt advice and Life events that impact on your finances, like having a baby, buying a home, starting a new job or retiring.

A number of local people have already seen Karen and benefitted from advice that they have received.

As well as targeted drop in sessions, such as Benefits health check and Utilities health check, there is a series of workshops, including managing debt and consumer rights. Keep an eye on our notice boards and Facebook page for the Autumn programme.

Alternatively you can contact CAB direct on 01743 280019 and ask to speak to the Community Advisor or visit: www.cabshropshire.org.uk. All drop ins and phone calls are in the strictest confidence.



Want to keep up with 3 Parishes Big Local news? Contact Bridget or Paula at Three Parishes Big Local on 01691 656882 or at info@big-local.org
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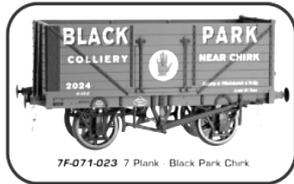
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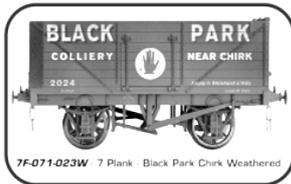
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