

Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

We start 2018 with a slightly reduced issue of Village Life. A combination of the weather over the last month, illness among, and shorter articles from, some of our usual contributors means that this edition contains only 36 pages rather than the standard 40. March, marking the end of our fourth year of publication, will (all things being equal) return to our normal size!

Among those taken ill (if that is the right way to describe falling on an icy pavement and breaking your hip) is Sue Schofield, who undertakes the task of putting each edition together (and chases those who forget the deadline). Despite a short stay in hospital and being less than mobile on her return home, Sue has still completed almost all of the work in compiling the January magazine, leaving me only the task of chasing up the late-comers, so I must thank Sue and, on behalf of myself and the entire committee, wish her a speedy return to full health.

2017 saw us lose several committee members from Village Life, notably (first with a stroke and then sadly with her death on Christmas Day) Cherry Healey who for many years ran the original Chatabout St Martins magazine with her late husband George and who helped start this magazine from the very beginning. We shall miss her.

We have always pledged to make Village Life self-sustaining and we have succeeded in doing that from a financial point of view. What we need to do now is to become just as successful in terms of people. That means more contributors, more people to deliver to the growing number of homes in St Martins and - most importantly - new members to join our committee and bring new ideas to keep Village Life interesting and good to read.

We have vacancies now, so don't wait for our next AGM in May. If you think you can contribute to our activities and you want to join us, please become an active member of our community. You can contact me at the email address below, or you can phone me on 01691 770677. You will be made very welcome.

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 Wednesday 14th March 2018**
.....

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.
Should you not get one please email
stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com

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

Parish Council

From the Chair

You may sometimes ask, “What does the Parish Council do?”

Well, we get involved in many different aspects of village life. In the past year we have awarded a contract to a local person to pick litter from various fields; to clean our bus shelters; to maintain our Memorial garden; and to do general maintenance as required and notified through the Parish Clerk.

At our monthly meetings we comment on planning applications affecting the village.

We recently encouraged six local residents to train to be members of St Martins Community Speed Watch – to monitor speeding traffic along Overton and Ellesmere Roads. So speeding motorists *prenez-garde* (take care).

John Campion, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, attended one of our Parish Council meetings, as did Peter Nutting, Leader of Shropshire Council. Both gentlemen gave your Council and members of the Public a good account of their various areas of responsibility and what impact there may be on our community.

The bus shelter by the Institute that someone tried to take for a ride was replaced on Council Insurance and this new see-through shelter now gives better visibility to those cars about to egress on to Overton Road.

Andrew Cast, our Vice-Chair, has been canvassing villagers asking you what sports and other facilities you want on the new Brynkinalt Recreation Site - which could possibly be operational in 2019. Your Council is taking the lead in negotiations with Iain Hill-Trevor (who is donating the land to the Parish Council), St Martins All-Through School, and the St Martins Football Club. All concerned parties are enthusiastic that the wider community have access to the new facilities, not just those who have an immediate interest.

We have updated our Local Plan; and we are negotiating with Shropshire Council about taking on the freehold of some village grassed areas because we think we can do a better (and more cost-effective) job of grounds' maintenance than Shropshire Council's *Ringway* or its replacement contractor later this year.

Stop press. The property development at Orchard Close provided us with CiL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds, some of which we used to buy the CCTV system now operating in your Village Centre. Currently, there are 15 cameras and channels in use, and these cameras provide coverage that ranges from over the dugouts on the playing field behind Stan's, to all around and inside the Centre. The colour video is absolutely clear, even at night, and already has ably assisted the Police in some of their enquiries.

Lastly, we have one vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you think you can contribute to the well-being of our community, please let the Clerk, or myself, or any Councillor know your willingness to serve on our team. Like us, you will find that it is rewarding for all when one sees a plan come together.

Enjoy your New Year all the year.

Glenn Pennington

Chair, St Martins Parish Council

Welcome to
St Martins
Parish Council



Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

The January meeting of the Parish Council which was held in St Martins Centre. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Peter Nutting, Leader of Shropshire Council, to the meeting.

Peter explained that his main plans during the coming months would be focussed on economic development, adult social care and the culture of the council staff. He then explained in some detail the financial problems the council are facing, which has led to proposals for an increase in council tax this year of 5.99%. Councillors expressed concern that Shropshire Council were capital rich and revenue poor and questioned why it had taken them so long to recognise this. Peter went on to explain that plans are being considered for redeveloping the Riverside Shopping centre in Shrewsbury and turning some of their assets, especially in the Market towns, into multi-purpose units. Other concerns were the budget for social care and the £18m proposed expenditure to update the Shirehall. Peter was asked to look into plans for youth provision across the County which seems to be concentrated on Market Towns and not the rural areas, and at the road gritting policy which currently excluded new estate roads with mainly elderly residents. The Chairman thanked Peter for attending the meeting.

Concern was expressed that following the recent litter pick in the football field to the rear of Stans Superstore 35 bags of dog mess had been left on top of and around the dugout. This is clearly unacceptable and we were hoping that with the new CCTV coverage of the area the dog owner(s) responsible will be able to be identified and some action taken. We have already mentioned it to a Trustee at the Centre who has discussed it with the CCTV installer and he has advised how the CCTV can be set in order to make it easier to discover the culprit. Agreed to look into the powers the local authority has in respect of this and what further action can be taken.

The street name plates for Ifton View have been collected from the highways depot at Whittington and passed to our handyman to be repaired and put back.

Shropshire Council are still looking at installing double yellow lines outside the school and no plans are yet forthcoming on any changes to the design of the mini island at the junction of Overton Road and Ellesmere Road.

When faults are reported on street lights that belong to the Parish Council, these are passed to Highline Electrical and usually repaired within a week. This is not the case with lights that belong to Shropshire Council, who have advised that repairs are taking anything up to six weeks to repair due to lack of staff. Five faulty street lights owned by Shropshire Council opposite the school have been reported and an urgent request placed to have these repaired quickly due to the fact that the start and finish of the school day is still in darkness and because Councillors are concerned over the speed of traffic in this area with many vehicles still failing to go round the mini island.

These concerns have been passed on to the police.

Current Parish Councillors

Ashley Allum	01691 770042
Andrew Cast	01691 773389
Gordon Fryer	01691 774520
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 Sands	01691 772394
John Stevens	01691 770677
Sue Schofield	01691 777710
Helen Williams	

Continued on next page...

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

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Happy New Year.

The Christmas period is always a quiet time at Shropshire Council, so there is not a great deal to report from there, but locally quite a lot is still going on and I am continuing to work with the Parish Council on several key issues.

We have now got to the stage of drawing initial plans for the old Ifton Heath Primary School site where we hope to persuade Shropshire Council to support a mixed use development with housing, including some much needed assisted living properties, while retaining the main school building. That we believe would provide excellent office space for small incubator business use.

You probably know that the Parish Council and myself are holding discussions with the Brynkinalt estate on the provision of a sports facility for the Village which will be superb addition for everyone.

I'm also concerned about the quality of the roundabout junction at Overton Road, Green Lane and Ellesmere Road. I've recently had officers from Shropshire Council on site looking at the problem with a view to upgrading both the road and the junction.

I would like to welcome Helen Williams back to the Parish Council (filling one of the two vacancies there). I also wish speedy recoveries to Councillors Sue Schofield and Gordon Fryer who aren't well.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any local issues as many of you already do - my contact details are at the top of this page.

Steve

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*...continued from previous page*

On planning, an outline application for one affordable dwelling and all associated works (to include access) South East of Derwen Farm, St Martins, Shropshire and another for the formation of vehicular access including a dropped kerb at 69 New Ifton, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3AA were both supported.

The Parish Council have now co-opted Helen Williams to the Parish Council to fill one of the two vacancies there. Application forms for the second remaining vacancy can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Edward Davies Fellow SLCC  
St Martins Parish Clerk.



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# Sunday Social Club



**At a loose end on a Sunday afternoon?**

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.

**at St. Martins Centre Lounge.**

**The next meetings will be on**

**4th February & 4th March**

**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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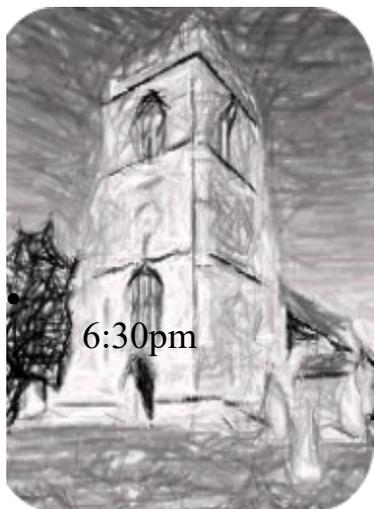
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# St. Martins Parish Church

## Service times

Every **Sunday: 9:30am** our usual Morning Worship Service

**3rd Sunday** (20th Aug; 17th Sept) Evening Praise and Worship

## **Sunday FIRST Messy Church**

1st Sunday of the month **at 11am**

A short family service with songs, Bible story and prayer and afterwards coffee, cake and some **craft activities**.



## Weekly Events

- **Home groups** meet at different times - see weekly notices.
- **Tuesday** Coffee morning at 10:30am in the Chapter house.
- **Thursdays** 9:30am Mid week service in church.
- **Fridays** 7:30pm St. Martins and Weston Rhyn Church Youth Group (12-19yrs)

## SUNDAY FIRST Family Service

Family life has so many pressures, good and bad, and fitting everything in to our busy days is a real test. So what's Sunday First? Another thing to add to the list, and on a Sunday as well??

We meet on the first Sunday of the month at St Martins Parish Church at 11am. It's for families with children of all ages and is an opportunity to make friends, do craft activities, and learn about our Christian faith in a really simple way.

The children love getting involved in our short time in church and for parents. It is an opportunity to chat over coffee and get another perspective on things. Strong friendships have been formed amongst adults and children alike and we all leave feeling ready to face another week!



We've just had a New Year get-together with traditional party games, food and noise levels like we've never known before, but fun was had by all and new friends made.

**To book a Christening or Wedding and for any other enquiry please contact**  
Revd Stuart Jermy - [sjvicar2@sjvicar.plus.com](mailto:sjvicar2@sjvicar.plus.com); 778 468; text 07766 255436

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



# St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister: Rev Stella Long 01691 622274

**Thursday Coffee Mornings 10.30 - 11.30**

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

|            | Feb 4th               | Feb 11th          | Feb 18th       | Feb 25th            |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| St Martins | Rev Shoreman<br>11.00 | At Moors<br>11.00 | Chirk<br>11.00 | J.Molyneux<br>10.00 |
| Moors      | At St Martins         | Rev Long<br>11.00 | Chirk<br>11.00 | Jackson<br>11.00    |

## 'Messy' Mothering Sunday Service

**SUNDAY MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Listen to a story told by Rev Ruth Shoreman

Try some spring crafts

Join us for coffee & traditional Simnel Cake!



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St Martins Centre is run by volunteers for the village. Please feel free to pop in and meet us. More volunteers would be lovely, sorting books, helping in the office or just making coffee and chatting to visitors!

## **ST MARTINS YOUTH CLUB**

**MEETING EVERY FRIDAY (term time only)**

**7.30 – 9.00 year 6 and older welcome. Entry £1.**

**Activities this term to include crafts/cooking/games/fencing.**

### **Social Media**

A large number of our young people are using Social Media sites that are not age appropriate. We ask that NO young people take photos or make videos in Youthie – please support us.

### **Knife Crime**

Knife crimes involving young people are often on the news but, thank goodness, not around here. We aim to encourage our young people to think about the consequences of carrying knives.

# Thanks From Lesley

The Frost Fayre held in December at the Centre was a great success. Lots of lovely Christmas items for sale, lots of people getting together and having a good chat.

Special thanks to Helen, Shirley and Maureen for all your support and help in setting it all up. Also to Arla from Oswestry for their cheeses donation, Mollies for donating 30 £1 tubs of sweets, Tyrone, Glenn and Helen for the £50 donation from Poundstretcher to make hampers, Cllr Steve Davenport for his food donation, Alan Sings for the lovely music and all the lovely people who came and supported the whole venture.



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## St Martins FC

“After a difficult summer and subsequent start to the season, St Martins have continued their rebuilding as a club both on and off the pitch. It has been little over 12 months since I took over the managerial reins. The initial task of steadying the ship and moving the club away from the perilous position of being bottom of the league after 18 games on just 10 points was achieved and the club finished in a respectable 8th position. A dis-jointed pre-season to this season arose because I was away for long periods with an injury, so a very small squad struggled, worsened by lack of player availability, which resulted in the Saints very poor start to the season.

Recently, however, we have bounced back magnificently and are currently in our best form of the season having won the last five matches in all competitions. The team are playing some excellent football and are scoring lots of goals, providing excellent entertainment for those coming to watch matches. The squad now has more stability, and whilst it is still very small, I feel that this squad is adequately equipped for the challenges that lie ahead in the last four months of the season.

The run of good performances started with a four goal hammering of Wrens Nest, followed by a nervier 4-3 win against Gornal. A comfortable Ethlestone Cup quarter-final win against Penley saw the Saints score ten goals to setup a semi-final meeting with Allscott. The Saints got their first double of the league season by winning 3-1 away at Allscott at the end of December, so fingers crossed for a win in that semi-final. To cap this fine run, the lads beat top of the ‘West Midland League’ Division One, Newport Town, 1-0 at home on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January with a very professional performance that should have yielded a lot more goals.

The Saints can now look forward to fighting on 4 fronts for the remainder of the season:- The League, League Cup, Ethlestone Cup and the TJ Vickers Shropshire Premier Cup. The biggest priority though is finishing high enough to get the club to its highest ever level of football for next season”. *Dan Stevens. St. Martin’s FC Manager.*

On behalf of the ‘St. Martins FC Club Committee’, *Chairman Terry Ellis*, thanks Dan and the team for their efforts, stating that;

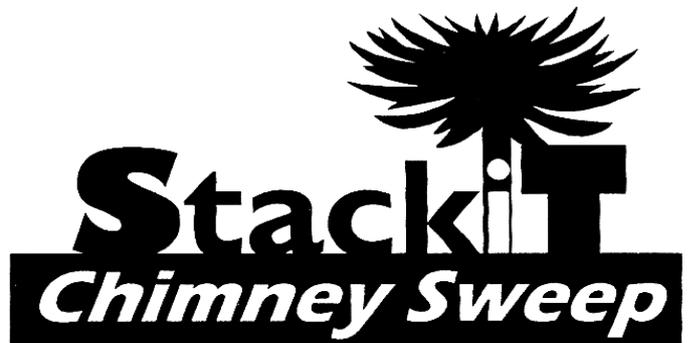
“It has been a pleasure to watch such attractive football. The quality of the football has attracted neutrals to support the team alongside those of us who are long-term fans so we would recommend anyone who loves their football to come along to watch the team playing at the highest level in the club’s illustrious history and we could well be playing a step higher at level 6, next year.”

## Quiz Jan 2018

### Who Plays Here?

1. White Hart Lane
2. Fenners
3. Ewood Park
4. The Rose Bowl
5. Montgomery Waters Meadow
6. Elland Road
7. Emirates Riverside
8. The Parks
9. The Hawthorns
10. Lords

Answers on page 29



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&  
Sam Cooke**

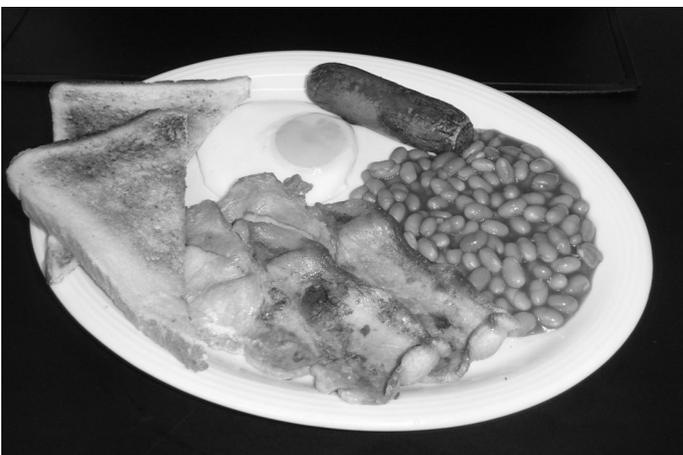
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# Be a friend to someone in 2018!

Here at Qube we understand that loneliness can affect anyone at any age for many different reasons. Our thriving Tuesday Club already brings many people together to make friends and try new activities and in 2018 we want to take a further step to combat loneliness in our local area.

We are now looking for anyone who can spare a few hours each week to visit someone in their local community to offer them friendship and company. Something as simple as a regular cup of tea and a chat can completely transform the life of someone who spends every day alone with only their TV for company. Could you be a friend to someone?

You'll be joining a fantastic team of volunteers at Qube that make a real difference in the community. You'll be given ongoing support from a dedicated Volunteer Co-ordinator and we pay expenses so you won't be out of pocket!

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering with us as a befriender, call us now on 01691 656882 and speak to Victoria Hughes or email [v.hughes@qube-oca.org.uk](mailto:v.hughes@qube-oca.org.uk). Alternatively why not call in at our Tuesday Club and meet some of the volunteers and members that are already involved. Our Tuesday Club runs every Tuesday morning from 11:30am to 1pm at Qube; just turn up and you can expect a warm welcome!



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## Police Report

I'd like to begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year, I trust you all enjoyed the festive season.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all motorists that it is an offence to park on the pavement if you are causing an obstruction to pedestrians who cannot get past, especially those in wheelchairs or parents with push chairs. It is not acceptable for people to have to put themselves and their children in harms way by having to walk into the road because of inconsiderate parking.

Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

For more crime prevention advice please feel free to get in contact with me.  
Please report anything suspicious to the police on 101.

**Kate Le'Clere, PC 3718**

**Oswestry Rural North, Safer Neighbourhoods Team**

**Mobile – 07870 219518**

**PCSO Dave Hughes – 07870 219190**

**PCSO Pete Roberts – 07870 219019**

Please contact us on the above numbers if you have any issues you wish to discuss. E-Mail - [oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

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If you can answer YES to these questions, then look out in the next issue for full details.

The Grow It, Make It, Show It, Show will this year encourage youngsters to plant, water and generally look after a spud in a bucket. It's portable so if you go away on holiday you can ask a friend to look after it etc.



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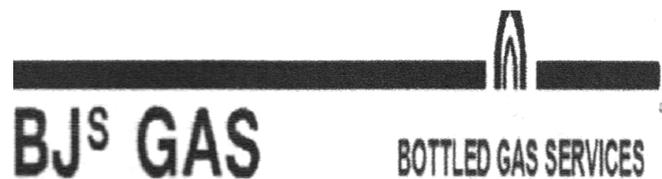
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SUNDAY 8AM-8PM

# First Responders



We thought 2017 had been quieter but when the totals were totted up, between us we have attended 635 emergencies of which 138 were in St Martins.

Many thanks to all of you who have supported us this year, particularly when Effie went through the horrid experience of being dismissed in March. Also for offers of four-wheel drive vehicles when the snow

came recently!

We are very grateful to the many people who have made donations to our fund in 2017, with a special mention for The Keys and their guests whose generosity at the firework display on November 5th raised a total of £642 which will go a very long way towards keeping the CFR car on the road for another year.

The village defibrillator has had at least one outing in earnest. Although in the end it wasn't actually used, it is a comfort to know that the system works well.

There will be two more Heartstart courses later in the year when anyone who wishes can come along to the Village Centre and learn about what to do in an emergency and how not to be afraid of a defibrillator! Watch the magazine for dates and times. Effie is happy to run courses for any group with the content designed to suit the occasion. Do get in touch through the Village Centre or the magazine committee.

Keep well.

Effie & John, St Martins Community First Responders

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Another BIG THANK YOU to Vicky from around the corner coming with blankets and hot water bottles and to Karen and Lauren from Llanymynech who stopped to help me when I fell on the ice and hit the pavement very hard and broke my hip. Your quick thinking, actions and support made all the difference. Even though I felt so embarrassed, you were great.

Sue Schofield





**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**

|                        |              |                      |              |                            |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| <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> |                            |

Contact us on : 01691 770258 / 07762139413

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FOR FOOD**



# Oswestry Market...



A unique, diverse, historic and award winning market.

Every Wednesday, Friday & Saturday - Farmers' Market Last Friday Every Month

[www.oswestrymarket.co.uk](http://www.oswestrymarket.co.uk) Contact 01691 680222



# What's on in February!

|           |                                                                              |                                      |        |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
|           |                                                                              |                                      |        |
| Sun 4th   | Sunday Social Club                                                           | St Martins Centre                    | 3.30pm |
| Tues 6th  | WI: Terry Rosamund on<br>"Man Sheds"                                         | Ifton Miners Institute<br>Lounge     | 7.30pm |
| Thur 8th  | Parish Council                                                               | St Martins Centre                    | 7:00pm |
|           |                                                                              |                                      |        |
| Sun 11th  | Green Gym<br>Ifton Meadows                                                   | meeting at Colliery/main<br>entrance | 1:30pm |
| Tues 13th | Ifton Meadows Management<br>Committee                                        | St Martins Centre                    | 7:30pm |
| Wed 14th  | Weston Rhyn Gardening<br>Club.<br>Well Dressing Festivals -<br>Robert Barlow | Weston Rhyn Institute                | 7:30pm |
|           |                                                                              |                                      |        |
|           |                                                                              |                                      |        |
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