

# Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

Welcome to our final edition for 2018 - and what a year it has been, with the build up to the unveiling of the Ifton Colliery commemorative statue to my mind the best story of the year. But even without that, there have been many other great events and activities we have been able to report on, ranging from the success of both our local football clubs to the plans for the new recreation ground at the school and the latest commitment by the Parish Council to upgrade all our streetlights to LED – both saving money and helping the environment.

What new excitements will 2019 bring? Watch this space!

One thing for sure is that the village will continue to expand with the next stage of the Holland Drive new homes alone – and that means we will need at least one more person to deliver Village Life every two months. Can **you** spare a little time to help? If so, please give me a call on 01691 770677 and join our growing band.

My recent appeal for more “What’s On” items produced a limited response in the last issue, but there is still a need for more. You don’t have to pay to advertise in our centre pages, so if you are organising (or are aware of) an event, send details to our email address (below). The more people who know about it, the more are likely to attend boosting both attendance and success!

Well that is more than enough of asking for input from you. I’ll finish by wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. May they both be happy, peaceful and prosperous. Thanks for reading and supporting Village Life. See you in January 2019.

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](mailto:stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com)  
by no later than Wednesday 16th January 2019**  
.....

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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 Martins Centre for  
people with sight impairment.**

# Parish Council

## From the Chair

TV advertisers tell you to spend your money on their products. They kid you that you are saving whilst you spend. Some newspapers do the same. They kid you to buy their newspaper with a sensational eye-catching headline which *may* have some relation to the true facts. But not guaranteed. You may recall that the 3<sup>rd</sup> October Advertiser front page showed a picture of cattle emblazoned with CATTLE INVASION. The impression given was that Ifton Meadows would be swamped with cattle which would threaten ramblers and dog-walkers. Wrong. Representatives of both your Parish Council and Ifton Meadows Committee met with the designated Shropshire Council employee in charge of the budget for the maintenance of Ifton Meadows. These are the true facts.

1. Shropshire Council owns Ifton Meadows which is a GRASSLAND and a NATURE RESERVE. It is not a dog-walkers paradise nor a ramblers haven. On it, trees and shrubs are slowly growing out of control despite its annual maintenance.

2. Shropshire Council is reducing their budget which covers PARTIAL maintenance of 15 sites. This shortfall in manual maintenance of Ifton Meadows was taken up by the volunteers of Ifton Meadows Committee. But now they cannot cope.

3. Shropshire Council has successfully entered into partnership with NATURAL ENGLAND for 4 sites across the north of Shropshire. Natural England have both the expertise and money to fund maintenance and infrastructure repair.

4. Natural England recommend the grazing of 6-7 DEXTER cattle to keep undergrowth under control. Dexter cattle are a hardy Irish breed which are small and docile, and are skylark friendly. They are no threat to humans and dogs.

5. Ifton Meadows Committee *are in favour* of using Dexter cattle. However, the exact area of freedom for the cattle is yet to be decided. But Natural England will pay for additional fencing, piping of water to a cattle trough, and kissing gates. Their Rangers will pay regular visits to ensure both the wellbeing of cattle and the habitat of the nature reserve.

6. Since Shropshire Council own the land, your Parish Council cannot say how they maintain or develop their land. However, St Martins Parish Council *are in favour* of supporting Shropshire Council in good management of the Nature Reserve and consider that a partnership with Natural England is a positive outcome.



From his previous experiences, the designated employee stated that the most vocal opposition came from dog-walkers. He recommends that concerned dog-walkers visit the 4 sites which use Dexter cattle and gain a true perspective.

Finally, a big Thank You to the hundreds who came to the Memorial on Remembrance Day. An historic occasion was enhanced by St Martins School junior choir and by our very own bugler, Rachael King. Another historic occasion will have occurred on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November – the unveiling of the bronze statue of a Miner. In both war and peace time, soldiers and miners lose their lives that we may benefit. Let us come and pay our respects to our heritage. Let us say, **“We shall remember them”**.

Glenn Pennington, Chair St Martins Parish Council

# **Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk**

## **The November Parish Council Meeting was held in St Martins Centre.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There had been no call for an election to fill the vacancy on the parish council following the resignation of Ashley Allum, so notices have now been put up advertising this vacancy. Although Councillors were pleased over the display on the lamp posts of large poppies for Remembrance Day, they felt more should be put up next year.

Although the police were unable to attend the meeting, issues raised included requesting an update from police on stone throwing incidents in Clarkes Lane and ask again through the Crime Commissioner how many additional officers are planned for our area. Community Speed Watch Training will be carried out by the end of the month.

On planning issues the Parish Council supported the erection of a two storey side extension following demolition of garage/conservatory at 9 Baytree Close, St Martins and had no objections to an outline application for the erection of an affordable dwelling to include access at Derwen Farm, St Martins.

Work continues on the outline design of the facilities planned for the new recreation ground adjacent to St Martins School as presented in the proposals approved at the October meeting.

Although Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport was unable to attend the meeting, the Parish Council understands that in the revised Shropshire Local Plan only two sites are being considered for further housing development in St Martins for the period 2026 to 2036. Other issues on which the Parish Council will request an update from our Shropshire Councillor include a progress report on the proposed mini roundabout by Stan's Superstore and proposals (if any) for 20 mph zones.

The Parish Council would also like quotations on various options for speed enforcement signs and ask why no response has been received from a resident in Moors Bank on issues with current development problems in this area.

Concern was again expressed that most of the street lights from the school to the Gledrid Roundabout were not working. As regards the street light not working at the Cherry Tree Lane/Green Lane junction the fault is a power supply and is in the hands of Scottish Power who then contract this work out.

The damaged light opposite Stans Superstore belongs to Shropshire Council who have been requested to replace this as a matter of urgency. Work will start by the end of November in replacing all the street lights owned by the Parish Council to LED.

On highway issues, apart from numerous pot holes, many road markings in parish are in urgent need of painting as does the lettering on the Ifton View street signs.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on the 13th December 2018 at St Martins Centre.

Edward Davies

St Martins Parish Clerk.

### **Current Parish Councillors**

Andrew Cast	01691 773389
Gordon Fryer	01691 774520
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
Brian Herbert	01691 772647
John Hodgson	07841 451212
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	01691 777561

# **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)

Well, I just can't believe where this year has gone!

They say that the years go quicker as you get older and I'm beginning to think that this is true.

It was really good to see such a fantastic turnout this year for the remembrance service at the war memorial. It was great that so many people in St Martins came to show their respect and gratitude to those who gave their lives in our defence.

Also, what a tremendous achievement by the Ifton Colliery committee in raising funds from local people to have a statue which, by the time you read this, will have been unveiled as a permanent reminder of all the miners and others who worked there and to remember the history of St Martins and the Ifton Pit.

As you may remember, I asked in the last couple of editions of Village Life, for your opinions on possible reductions of the speed limit to 20 mph though the village. I have had lots of replies, and comments both by email and in person when I've been in the Centre, and, by quite a majority you have been against it for a variety of reasons.

I always take notice of your comments on this and any other matters you raise with me, so please get in touch with anything that is of concern. I am available by phone, by email or in person when I am at the Centre.

Finally, may I wish you a very happy Christmas and new year,

Steve Davenport

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## **CHRISTMAS TREE**

Is there anyone willing to help put up the

Village Christmas Tree on

Friday 7th at the Memorial Garden about 1pm

Contact Ash Allum 07967672053 or just turn up.

The lighting of the tree will be on

7th December .6.00.pm

If you are of primary school age and would like to sing a Christmas carol, phone Ash for details.







## Come Celebrate with us at St. Martins Parish Church

You and your family are warmly invited to our **Advent and Christmas services**. *Details below.*

**On December 25th we celebrate the birth of Christ: the day God entered his created world in the shape of a baby.** That is indeed cause for celebrations. But it's not the whole cause.

Because Christmas Day is not the whole story. It's just the opening chapter.

Our celebrations can only be complete if they embrace what that baby went on to do in his life, why he did it and what it means for us.

# Christmas at St. Martins

**Sunday 23rd  
Dec 4pm**

**Christingle and Carols**

**Christmas Eve -  
24th December  
11.15pm**

**Candlelit Christmas Eve  
Midnight Service**

**Christmas  
Day 25<sup>th</sup>  
9.30am**

**Christmas Day Family  
Communion**

*For more about Christmas, our activities and services please check out our website  
[www.stmartinsparish.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsparish.co.uk)*

*Phone anytime 778 468 or text 07766 255436 or email: [saintmartinjohns@icloud.com](mailto:saintmartinjohns@icloud.com)*

*Revd Stuart Jermy, wishing you all a healthy and happy Christmas*



## A Donation to the CFR

A huge thank you to all the staff and guests at The Keys, St Martins, for their donations to the Community First Responder fund at the Fireworks Evening on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Without your kindness it would be difficult to keep our dedicated car on the road, serving our community, we hope, for at least another year. Retired CFR John had a great time catching up with old friends!

Effie, the local

## **Community First Responder,**

is seeking help over the coming winter.

Are there any owners of 4 wheel drive vehicles who, if we have a heavy fall of snow over the few next months, might be prepared to pick Effie up and take her to 999 emergencies in and around the village, and take her back again afterwards? Last year there were 3 occasions when Effie couldn't reach a patient because of snow, but two 4x4 drivers were able to help out on other occasions. If you think you could drop everything when Effie phones you for help in this way, we at the magazine would be happy to pass on your details.



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# 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.

## "CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH"



SUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd at 11.00



	December 2nd	December 9th	December 16th	December 23rd	December 30 <sup>th</sup>
ST MARTINS	Rev R Shoreman Messy Church 11.00	At Moors 11.00	AWT 11.00	Rev R Shoreman HC 11.00	No Service at St Martins
MOORS	At St Martins	Rev S Long HC 11.00	Concert 6.30	At St Martins	Songs of Praise 11.00

	January 6th	January 13th	January 20 <sup>th</sup>	January 27th
ST MARTINS	At Moors 11.00	M Bennett 11.00	AWT 11.00	AWT 10.00
MOORS	Cooper CV 11.00	K Edlington 11.00	At St Martins 11.00	Songs of Praise 11.00

	February 3rd	February 10th	February 17th	February 24 <sup>th</sup>
ST MARTINS	J Yair Chirk 11.00	AWT 10.00	M & A Davis 11.00	Share Together 11.00
MOORS	Chirk 11.00	M Bennett 11.00	Nankievl 11.00	At St Martins 11.00

Join us for Coffee, biscuits and a chat

**THURSDAYS 10.30 - 11.30**



# Tea and Coffee Shop



The former provisions store and bakery 'Ushers' at St Martins Moor Bridge has now re-opened as a 'Tea and Coffee shop'.

Jan and Mike Crowe will now provide a wide range of teas, coffees, hot chocolate and soft drinks and of course some wonderful cakes on a 'pop up' basis for walkers, boaters and locals.

We also offer free-range eggs, homemade jam, and a variety of homemade breads (made to order Tel: 01691 587224). There is also a bric-a-brac and gift stall. Opening hours will be flexible (look for the 'A' board outside). We have inside seating available. Ushers will also offer bed & breakfast to visitors to the area and details can be found on the Airbnb website.

All profits from this venture will be allocated to local charities

## Quiz November 18

Answers on page 33

1. How many England batsmen reached double figures in the last one day against Sri Lanka?
2. In anatomy what is trapezius?
3. Wolfram is another name for what?
4. In which English county is Tavistock, the birthplace of Sir Francis Drake?
5. Which medal did the GB sitting volleyball team win in the Invictus Games?
6. Tony Lock & Jim Laker played cricket for which county?
7. Which football club did Glen Hoddle play for between 1975 and 1987?
8. How did singer Roy Orbison die?
9. How many pennies were there in a pre-decimal pound?
10. What ingredient would you add to warm milk to make junket?



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# At Stan's Coffee Shop

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# FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS

## LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



Many of you will have seen the article in the Advertiser in October regarding the proposed use of cattle to maintain Ifton Meadows. This is not a new suggestion it has always been in the Management plan that has been in place for

over ten years. First can I remind everyone that **IFTON MEADOWS IS A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE** - it is NOT a Park or a dog toilet which some people think it is.

I have been involved since 2004 and during that time we have helped to change the face of the site encouraging both Nature to flourish and people to use the site to relax and enjoy both the flora and fauna of the site and its peace and quiet. Due to both the financial restraints on the Council and NO new able bodied volunteers coming forward. Shropshire Council decided to approach Natural England. They have surveyed the site and state that the best way forward would be either grazing or cut and collect - this is the same as in our Management plan.

People have been very vocal about the use of cattle after the Advertiser article and seem to think that IMMC/Friends are against it. This is not correct. We have known about this proposal for some time and our only concern was the numbers and type of cattle. There is still some tweaking to do but these are the bones of what is proposed.

There will be about 6/7 animals on site at any one time and they would be Dexters. With this in mind we visited Lyth Hill, Shrewsbury on 28th September to inspect the type of cattle that have been suggested. Lyth Hill had reservations at first but, have had no problems with either people or dogs. Dexters are small docile cattle which graze on saplings and brambles along with grass. The animals we saw were not interested in either people or dogs - whether off or on the lead. The only problem that I can see is uncontrolled dogs which **SHOULD NOT** be on site any way. I should also like to remind dog owners that they should always be with their dogs when on site both to keep their pets under control but also to clean up after them. Dog faeces is not only unsightly but can be dangerous to both people and dogs. It is also changing the structure of the soil which in turn affects the flowers etc. on site. Can I also ask that you regularly worm your dogs.

Before someone asks, droppings from the cattle will not affect the soil as they will only be returning fodder eaten on site and fencing and water will be paid for by Natural England.

The friends continue to meet the second Sunday of each month (weather permitting) 1.30 p.m. at the main entrance and our monthly meetings are second Tuesday of each month at Centre 7.30 p.m. Help us to continue to have an input into the site with Shropshire Council by joining us at one or both of these monthly events and then you will know what is happening.

October saw approximately 20 Tesco employees on site for several hours cutting the scrub which continues to encroach on many parts of the site. They were overseen by Mike Simms of Shropshire Council. This is the second year that they have helped on site

October also saw a survey on Invertebrates being carried out - no results as yet.

Also keep a look out for the different fungi in various colours that are showing at this time of the year.

Ann Williams - Chairman



# KEEPING OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD CLEAN CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT

## The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Shropshire Council) Dog Control Order 2013

This Order applies to all land in St Martins Parish that is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access, such as footpaths, roads and countryside sites.

Dog owners (excluding registered blind persons) are required by law to clean up after their dogs. It is an offence which will incur a fixed penalty fine of £75.00 if you leave excrement from your dog in public areas.

More serious offences, on conviction in the Magistrates Court, could result in a fine up to £1,000.

St Martins Parish Council would like to help all dog owners to be responsible owners. There are bins provided around the Parish for you to dispose of your dog waste.

**If you feel that more bins are needed please Contact the Parish Clerk and tell us where you would like them to be.**

You can report Dog Fouling issues to Shropshire Council Street Cleansing Department on 0345 678 9006. You can access the Shropshire Council dog fouling online report form:-

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/forms/contact-us?url=https://shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/environmental-maintenance/dog-fouling/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/forms/contact-us?url=https://shropshire.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/environmental-maintenance/dog-fouling/)

The following Dog Control Orders came into force on 1st November 2013:-

The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Shropshire Council) Order 2013

The Dogs on Lead by Direction (Shropshire Council) Order 2013

The Dogs Exclusion (Shropshire Council) Order 2013







## The Visit

You might remember the Favours Draw run by the Ifton Colliery Project. I was happy and surprised to receive a phone call to say that I had won the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament

We were on the first tour of the day in order to enter The House of Commons and House of Lords before they began sitting. When visiting one realises how large the Houses of Parliament, technically called The Palace of Westminster, is and its remarkable 1000 year history. We watched the Speaker pass Central Lobby, walking past us with his staff into The House of Commons. We then went to the public gallery to see debates take place.

After Owen Paterson met us in the Central Lobby, near the entrance to The House of Commons chamber, an area often shown on BBC TV, and he took us to 'The Strangers Restaurant' for a very pleasant lunch. It was clear from the conversation that followed over lunch that Mr. Paterson took a genuine and keen interest in the 'Ifton Miner Statue' project. It was evident from comments we prompted him to make, that he had and still is working very hard behind the scenes in his 21 years as the local MP, to try and bring about many improvements to the lives of all his constituents, a recent example being the direct rail service now introduced between Shrewsbury and Euston and he is still pressing hard behind the scenes the case for the duelling of the A5 Shrewsbury to Ruabon and for the Pant A483 bypass.



We were genuinely in awe of the architecture of The Houses of Parliament, having spent 7 hours in the building in total. Every inch of it oozed history and stories to go with it. It even has its own Post Office which anyone can use. I was also impressed with Mr. Paterson's wide breadth of knowledge concerning all the issues in his constituency and his genuine desire to help promote the area, as well as his efforts to resolve countless issues, some unique to his

constituency, others more general.

It really was an interesting and enjoyable experience that day, including meeting Mr. Paterson, and I know if anyone had a problem he would try and move the issues forward if people contacted him. It was interesting to hear that our lunch time was arranged around him being called over in the afternoon to speak to the Prime Minister at Number 10, so clearly a person whose views are valued and respected by many within Government.

DEREK JONES



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Thank you to everyone who came along to our autumn activity session on November 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Centre. We had lots of great children join us, with their grown-ups, for a fantastic Halloween dance workshop with Michelle from Love2Dance. We enjoyed a lunch together and then got down to some serious crafting, with bird feeders, flame free sparklers, leaf crowns, fun glasses and badges among the eight different activities on offer. We were happy to be able to provide a few hours of crafty fun for the children and the adults with them (who also enjoyed joining in with the craft and of course grabbing a cuppa and some cake)!

We were also joined by Maggie Rowlands from Three Parishes Big Local who came along with the “big cheque” for a quick photo call. We have been lucky to be the recipients of a Small Business Grant from the 3PBigLocal which means that our website [www.coapcic.co.uk](http://www.coapcic.co.uk) is now under construction.

We are now looking towards 2019 and are looking forward to bringing you “Imaginarium” - a regular Saturday drop in for families to enjoy all things imaginative. We will have all sorts of crafts, a huge collection of bits and pieces to dress up in and of course the obligatory cuppa and a cake to allow the grown ups to recharge their batteries! Please keep a look out for the posters and social media advertising this nearer the time!

Don't forget you can find us on Social Media @COAPCIC and email us on [hello@coapcic.co.uk](mailto:hello@coapcic.co.uk)

Thank you for supporting us in 2018!



# Scam WARNING

Please be aware of a new Scam targeting vision impaired people.

A colleague at Deafblind Cymru has warned us about a scam targeting people who receive bank statements by audio CD.

'A member of Deafblind Cymru has no vision and as a result receives his bank statements via Audio CD. Recently an Audio CD arrived at his home which he played and it stated that there was an issue with his account and that he was to contact the bank on a number given on the CD. Luckily the member had the bank's number pre-saved on his phone meaning he used this number to contact his bank who confirmed there was no issue and that this was a scam.



Somehow these scammers have found out the member receives information via CD and has used his vulnerability to specifically target him. Luckily the member was wise to it on this occasion. There's no doubt though that other blind members may be receiving such CD's, so beware.

If you are aware of anyone who is visually impaired who may receive these CD's please make them aware.

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.

You can email the team at  
[oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

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steps and  
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**Calling people from St Martins, Weston Rhyn,  
Gobowen and Ellesmere**

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## The Link to the Badge

St. Martins Football Club has a long and illustrious history. As early as 1897 the village had a team competing in the Oswestry & District Football League and other local competitions. Although specific details about the club during this time are vague, the association that the club has with Ifton Colliery is concretely secure. In those early days of the club's existence, the team spirit and camaraderie was enhanced by the fact that many of the players and committee members worked

down the pit at Ifton Colliery, so it was deemed appropriate that the Football Club's emblem badge should proudly display a Miner's helmet. *The miner's helmets were yellow for the electricians working at the Colliery, white for the supervisors, and black for those working at the coalface. All of these colours are utilised in the club emblem badge and the first team football kit is yellow and black, proudly displaying the badge on the shirt.*



This spirit and camaraderie was typified by brothers and fellow Miners, Derek and Travis Stokes who secured a sound partnership at the heart of a sturdy St. Martins F.C defence renowned for its strength and determination and still reminisced by those old enough to remember those special times.



Derek was proud to have been a senior electrical engineer at Ifton Colliery, and was a renowned classic central defender with skills that graced the game. Derek won many football accolades, as well as representing Shropshire, and

achieved numerous competitions and titles in a career playing for his beloved St. Martins FC, a career that started as an ambitious 14 year old, incredibly playing senior football as a young teenager, and concluded as a dedicated Club Manager who was prepared to play when required even at the age of 60. Derek's dedication to St. Martins FC included every possible role, from player, manager, treasurer, and secretary to marking out the pitch and washing the kit!

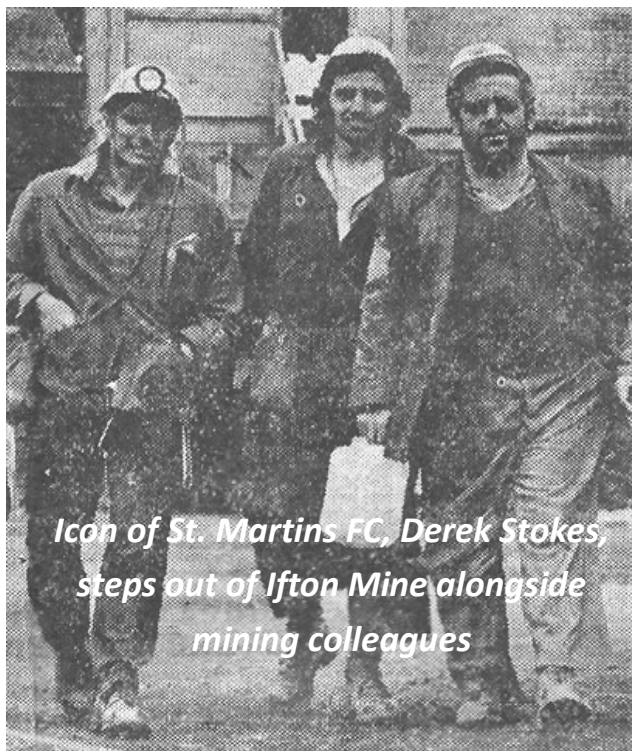
Derek's brother 'Travis' was also a formidable footballer, who strengthened the St. Martins FC defence with powerful tackling at fullback. He and Derek were an impressive defensive combination. As an ex-miners, they shared the Miners' spirit of co-operation that was utilised in combination on and off the football field.



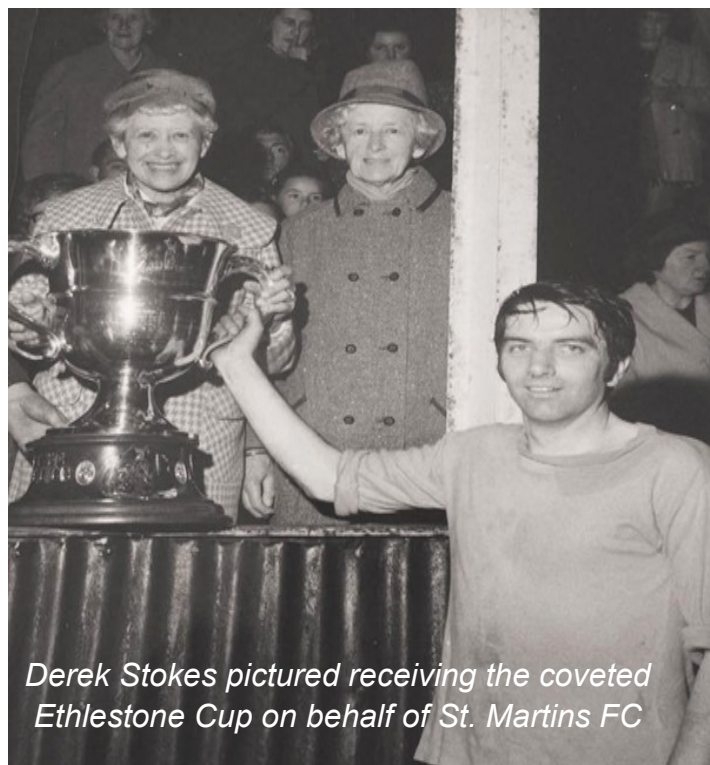
Derek's efforts were justifiably recognised at county level when the Shropshire FA presented him with a Fifty Year Long Service Award in 2011. But Derek was also well known for many other positive reasons outside of football. He was the very first "Unsung Hero" of St Martins. Nominations were asked for and voting arranged through the Parish Council's newsletter and an overwhelming result confirmed Derek as the St Martins "Unsung Hero" 2012.

The Chair of the Parish Council at the time, Helen Williams described Derek as; **"A man who inspired many"** and she remembers Derek as one of those characters that anyone new to the village got to hear about very quickly.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the closure of Ifton Colliery in November 1968 and every effort is being made by the community of St. Martins to honour the miners and others who worked at the colliery, particularly those who lost their lives down the pit, and the Ifton Colliery Commemorative Project is determined to preserve the mining heritage of the village. The project agreed to raise £50,000 to pay for the creation of a memorial statue of a Miner of the Sixties. The finished statue will be erected in the centre of the village, next to the Ifton Miners Welfare Institute, on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018.



*Icon of St. Martins FC, Derek Stokes, steps out of Ifton Mine alongside mining colleagues*



*Derek Stokes pictured receiving the coveted Ethlestone Cup on behalf of St. Martins FC*

The association between St. Martins F.C and Ifton Colliery continues to this day, as ex-miner Terry Ellis, now Chairman of St. Martins FC, has played a significant role in the commemorative project and the events taking place in the area to raise funds to pay for the statue. One aspect of that fund raising activity has been a link between the project and the ex-England centre forward Alan Shearer his Foundation. Alan has autographed an England shirt that the Ifton Colliery Project has auctioned and raised £320 for the statue, but in true spirit of togetherness

The association between St. Martins F.C and Ifton Colliery continues to this day, as ex-miner Terry Ellis, now Chairman of St. Martins FC, has played a significant role in the commemorative project and the events taking place in the area to raise funds to pay for the statue. One aspect of that fund raising activity has been a link between the project and the ex-England centre forward Alan Shearer his Foundation. Alan has autographed an England shirt that the Ifton Colliery Project has auctioned and raised £320 for the statue, but in true spirit of togetherness

Alan also signed a St. Martins FC shirt alongside the miners helmet emblem badge on the shirt, that the Club will proudly display at every opportunity.

For all players who have proudly played for St. Martins FC this fascinating link between the Football Club and Ifton Colliery represented in the St. Martin's FC emblem provides a poignant interpretation of the term **'Playing for the Badge'**

# What's on in December!

Sun 2nd	Sunday Social Club	St Martins Institute	3:00pm
Tues 4th	WI Party	The Keys	7:30pm
Thurs 6th	St Martins School Panto (Nursery/Year 8)	St Martins School	
Sat 8th	Tree of Light	Chirk	2:30pm
Sat 8th	A Christmas of Make Believe	Chirk Castle	10:00am - 4:00pm
Sat 8th	Father Christmas Grotto	Chirk Castle	10:15am
Sun 9th	Working Day at Ifton Meadows	Colliery/Main Entrance	1:30pm
Tues 11th	IMMC	St Martins Centre	7:30pm
Thurs 13th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm

# What's on in January 2019!

Sun 6th	Sunday Club	St Martins Centre	3:00pm
Tues 8th	IMMC	St Martins Centre	7:30pm
Tues 8th	WI	St Martins Institute	7:30pm
Thurs 10th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm
Wed 12th	Brynkinalt Hall, Chirk	Invitation to View House Tour (booking required)	10:30am
Sun 13th	Working Day at Ifton Meadows	Colliery/Main Entrance	1:30pm

Please let us know the time and date of events in February and March for the next edition of Village Life by no later than **Wednesday 16th January 2018**

If you send us an article for the next edition, please bear in mind that it will be delivered at the end of **January**, 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 February and March (or later).

# St Martins School



We have a busy few weeks as we welcome our local primary schools (Criftins, Gobowen, Weston Rhyn) as they join our year 5 students on a local history project about mining in our local area to coincide with the 50 year commemoration of the Ifton mine closing. They will be taking part in a talk with external speakers about life in the mines, having a look at the kit that was used. They will be making ceramic tiles depicting mining images that will form part of a piece of art to be displayed in the Miners Institute and they will be investigating the history and geography of the mine. To be able to investigate and learn about local history is very exciting!

This project will culminate in a 'float' in the Oswestry Christmas Parade on Sat 1st December. Please come and cheer them on!

One member of staff Mrs Ashton has shared her own stories about family members who worked in the mines and has found a lot of photographs from the time. You can have a look at them on our school website.



It was so lovely to see last year's year 11 students and their friends and family return to school this week to celebrate all their achievements and to pick up their GCSE certificates. This annual prize giving event celebrates not only academic achievement and progress but the contribution they have made to school, community and their peers. It is amazing to see that they are all settled, enjoying and thriving in the new phase of their lives - please keep in touch, you will go on to achieve great things! More photos are on our website.

# Christmas

## Dates for the diary



**(remember to look at the website for more information!!!)**

**Wednesday 5 December – Primary Christmas lunch day (a letter will follow with more details).**

**Thursday 6 December – Panto in school (letter to follow) Nursery—year 8**

**Thursday 6 December—year 11 study skills and parents evening**

**Tuesday 11 December—Secondary Christmas lunch day**

**Friday 14 December—Christmas Fayre—donations and visitors welcome!**

**18, 19 and 20 December - Extravaganza**

**Thursday 20 December—Primary flu vaccinations**

**Friday 21 December - Non- uniform day - Christmas jumper/Christmas colours – donation of £1**

### Christmas Performances

**Nursery and Reception Christmas Performance in the Arts Centre—Wednesday 12 December 9.30am**

**Activate Phase (Years 1, 2 and 3) - Wednesday 12 December at 6pm/Thursday 13 December at 2pm**

**Advance Phase (Years 4,5 and 6) - Wednesday 12 December at 2pm/Thursday 13 December at 6pm**

**Christmas Service at St Martins Parish Church (Parents, Carers, family, friends all welcome) - Monday 17 December - Years 1,2 and 3 at 9.30am /Years 4,5 and 6 at 10.15am**



# **Coastal Paintings Exhibition Success**

**A successful art exhibition, featuring coastal paintings by local artist Jon Young**



**was held over three days from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October at The Keys St Martins.**

Jon, who has been a teacher at the former Rhyn Park School was delighted with the response to the exhibition and the opportunity to chat to former pupils.

Over 100 visitors came to enjoy the beautiful seaside paintings at the first event of its kind in the village. Many paintings featured well known views across the Menai Straits from Anglesey and other North Wales locations as well as further afield.

The close local collaboration included the artwork by Jon Young, the venue thanks to John Smout of The Keys, plants borrowed from Sheila Baines of Pentre Nursery and advertising A-board lent by Morgans Decorators Merchants' manager Russ Swannick. Fantastic seaside themed flower arrangements were kindly donated by Stans Superstore, designed by florist Sue Hulme and were raffled off in aid of the British Heart Foundation at the end of the exhibition.

The event organiser, Ali Tickner, wishes to thank everyone who came to view the paintings and looks forward to seeing them all again – with their friends! – at the next exhibition in the new year.

**Jon Young Art can next be seen at the Ellesmere Winter Festival on November 30th in the Market Hall.**

**Watch this space for a new exhibition date!**

**ST MARTINS CENTRE**



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**CHRISTMAS OPENING**

The office will be closed from 2.00 Friday December 21<sup>st</sup>.

We will reopen on Monday January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.00.

Some planned activities will still take place. Those providers will contact their members directly.





## Three Parishes Community Wildlife Group

Covering the parishes of Weston Rhyn, St Martin's and Gobowen & Selattyn and the surrounding area.

The group met on 18<sup>th</sup> October at St Johns Church, Weston Rhyn

We were pleased to welcome Stuart Edmonds of Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Mammal Group to speak on Pine Marten's and the South Shropshire Pine Marten project. Stuart delivered an interesting talk on Pine Martens and other members of the Mustelidae family, accompanied by a good selection of slide images.



Using camera traps, Stuart has captured astounding footage of a number of Pine Marten's in the Clun Valley after they were first spotted in 2015 and young Pine Martens in 2017, including following up reports of other sightings by the general public.

At the meeting in the Chapter house, St Martins on 15th November, following a short AGM, Maggie Rowlands gave a relaxed talk accompanied by a slide show on the Ecology of Old Oswestry Hillfort – with a Q & A along the way. It was interesting to see how the ecology of the Hill Fort has altered through the years from trees to pure grassland and now encroached by bracken. The Hill Fort has it's own micro-climate which supports many forms of Flora and Fauna, which is regularly monitored.

A draft of the programme for next year was shared with the group, along with two change of venues for the monthly meetings. Full programme will be announced when completed, but there will be no meeting in December.

Meetings start again third Thursday in January at 19:30 – and there will be tea and coffee – just £2 donation

All are welcome

For further information – contact Polly on 01691 239087 – mobile 07938 693561

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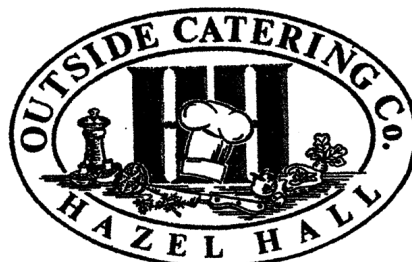
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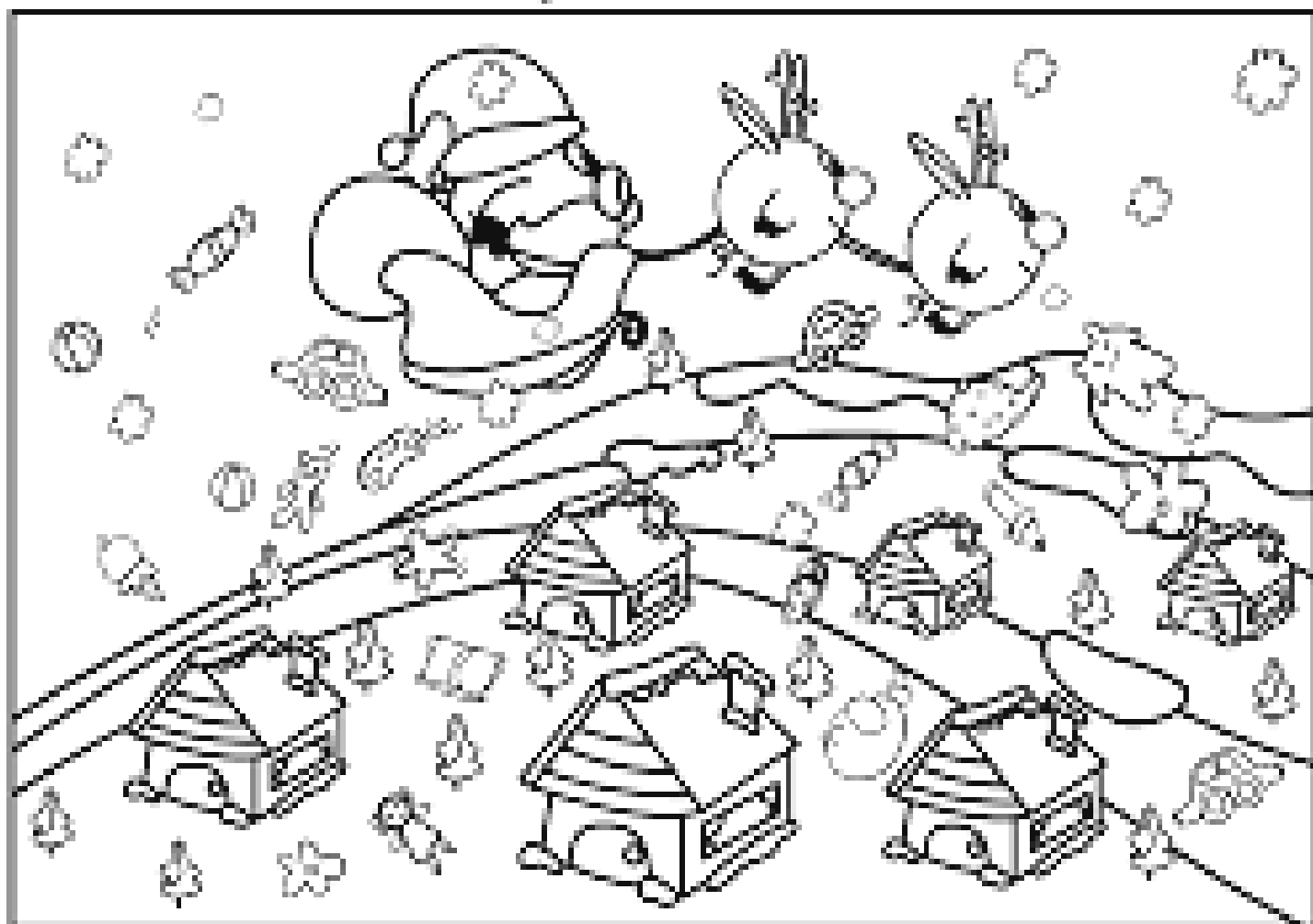
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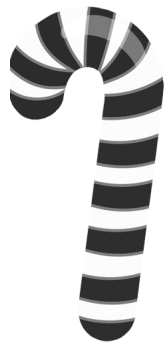
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Here's a great picture for you to colour





# CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



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M B M O L S Z T V W U P O B N D T T V V  
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BELLS  
CANDLES  
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CARDS  
CELEBRATE  
CHIMNEY  
CHRISTMAS

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## Join 'Outstanding' Early Years Provision

Moreton First, in Oswestry, is inviting prospective pupils and their parents to join them for their Infant Open Morning on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November between 9am and 11am.

Moreton First is an independent preparatory school for boys and girls aged 3 to 11 years. Graded 'outstanding' in every inspection, Moreton First Early Years provision offers all children a unique start to their education.

The Open Morning will assist parents who are considering the choices available to them in the first steps of their child's education. During the morning, parents will be offered guided tours of the exceptional Infant facilities and meet with the headmistress and specialist teaching staff, who will be on hand to answer questions. There will be hands-on activities for the children, while parents can discover everything that Moreton First has to offer in providing the strong foundation to their child's education.

Mrs Catherine Ford, Headteacher said, "The best way to experience Moreton First is to come along and visit us. We are delighted to welcome prospective pupils and parents to soak up our happy, nurturing and encouraging atmosphere."

Moreton First has a strong reputation for combining traditional educational methods with exciting initiatives to encourage pupils to be active participants in the adventure of their education.

To register your details before the event, please email: [moretonfirst@moretonhall.com](mailto:moretonfirst@moretonhall.com) or telephone 01691 776028.

Join 'Outstanding' Early Years Provision

To register your details before the event, please email: [moretonfirst@moretonhall.com](mailto:moretonfirst@moretonhall.com) or telephone 01691 776028.



# **CHIRK HOSPITAL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.**

It is time once again to turn our thoughts to the **Tree of Light** when the names of our deceased loved ones are remembered on a special individual star . There will be opportunity to put your loved ones names on the tree by writing them on the special forms which you will find at Chirk Health Centre, Chirk Hospital, and Chirk Library -



donations may be placed in the collecting tins available. You can also leave names by calling 01691 773642 or 01691 772321. All the names will be read out at a special service being held at the hospital on

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH AT**  
**2.30PM**

this will be followed with carols and mince pies and the drawing of the grand Christmas raffle, tickets for which will shortly be on sale.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Do you Know Anything ?**

Firstly, thank you for producing such a great magazine!

My beloved 15 year old pet Hermann's tortoise, Shelly, went missing from our garden on Ellesmere Road around 17th September. There are no signs of escape, so he was either stolen or someone without our knowledge went into our enclosed back garden and left the gate open at some point (though neither my husband or I found the gate open when we arrived home from work). He is micro chipped, approximately 15cm in diameter and very tame. I bought him when he was the size of a 50 pence piece with my savings when I was 11 years old, so he is a very special part of my family. We have registered Shelly on the Petlog Lost Page



and vets, the police, animal wardens and welfare representatives are actively looking for him. If you can help find him, please contact Sophie on 01691 778806.

# **ST MARTINS YOUTHIE**

St Martins Centre

- ⇒ EVENING:FRIDAY (term time only)
- ⇒ TIME: 7.30-9.00
- ⇒ AGE RANGE : school year 6 +
- ⇒ COST : £2
- ⇒ FOOD: toasties, hot chocolate, toast, waffles, wraps
- ⇒ PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES :dodge ball, fencing
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## **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS "PARTY NIGHT" DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**



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## Answers

From page 8

1. 3, - Joe Root 10, Moen Ali 37 & Ben Stokes 67.
2. A Muscle
3. Tungsten
4. Devonshire
5. Silver
6. Surrey
7. Tottenham Hotspur
8. Heart attack 1988
9. 240
10. Rennet

1.

## *Condolences*

Mrs Joan Terhorst passed away on  
30th of October 2018

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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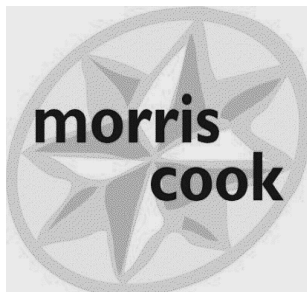
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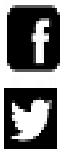
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Our meeting was held on 2nd October and President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone include one visitor. Thanks were given to Debbie Shaw who made a beautifully decorated Top Hat for the competition at our Group Meeting on 26th September for which St Martins W.I. was presented with the competition shield. Thanks were also given to Eileen Rosamund who crafted a lovely 2" embroidery onto a cloth called a "Twinchie". Each W.I. in the Shropshire Federation will be sending one up to County Office to be sewn onto a large piece of artwork to commemorate Shropshire Federations 100th Birthday. Our speaker for the evening was Gill Castle, she went to Uganda originally because of her interest in the wildlife. She, along with Emmy Gongo from Uganda, founded a charity in 2010 called Omushana which means Sunshine for Children. Gill gave a talk and showed slides of all the work they have been doing to improve the lot for children in the area not too far from where the Mountain Gorillas live in South-West Uganda. She brought craft work that the people living there had done. The charity makes sure that all their projects could carry on even if they were not there, as the people themselves put in much of the work and ideas. The vote of thanks was given by Ann Sadler.



### NOVEMBER 2018

Our President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone including 3 visitors, Samantha, Clare and Lynn. Our newsletter was discussed. Shirley had brought the wreath for Remembrance day and showed it to our members. Everyone was reminded of our trip on 26th November to Broadway Bound. We then asked for volunteers for our committee for 2019. Shirley Willis was proposed and elected again as our President. After that we had our speaker who was one of our own members, Debbie Shaw, showing us how to make a Christmas Decoration. We all had a go and had great fun. There were many different interpretations so not one was identical.

Debbie was thanked by Shirley, especially for the preparatory work she had put in. We will be having a Tea Party for the elderly on 18th November at The Chapter House, so we are looking forward to that. We have a joint Carol Service with West Felton, Whittington, and Gobowen W.I's at St Martins Church on 3rd December. There will be no meeting in December at the Miners Institute, but we will have a Christmas meal on December 4th at The Keys. Our first meeting in January will be on 8th January 2019.



## A ROBERTS



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Wed	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Thur	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Fri	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Sat	11:30 - 2pm	Closed

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# IFTON COLLIERY

## Commemorative Project

**Commemoration** of the 50th Anniversary came and went but what a day. Over 250 attended, the church was packed to overflowing, what a great way to remember your comrades. 32 men who lost their lives in the mine were remembered by the reading of their names by Jim Hoos and then a candle for each was lit by Garry Jones.

The candle stand, newly constructed by Chris Stokes of Stokes of England, is to remain in the church in honour of the miners and was blessed by the vicar.

A banner of Ifton Colliery which normally hangs in the church was brought forward by Terry Ellis to be placed on the altar. Stan Jones, John Clerk, Brian Herbert, Barry Evans and Ken Jones (Kinky) also brought a piece of equipment.

**Ifton Colliery Band** did a sterling job accompanying one of the hymns, leading the march to the site of the statue and they played a remarkable fanfare after the covers came off and the sound of the original hooter died away.

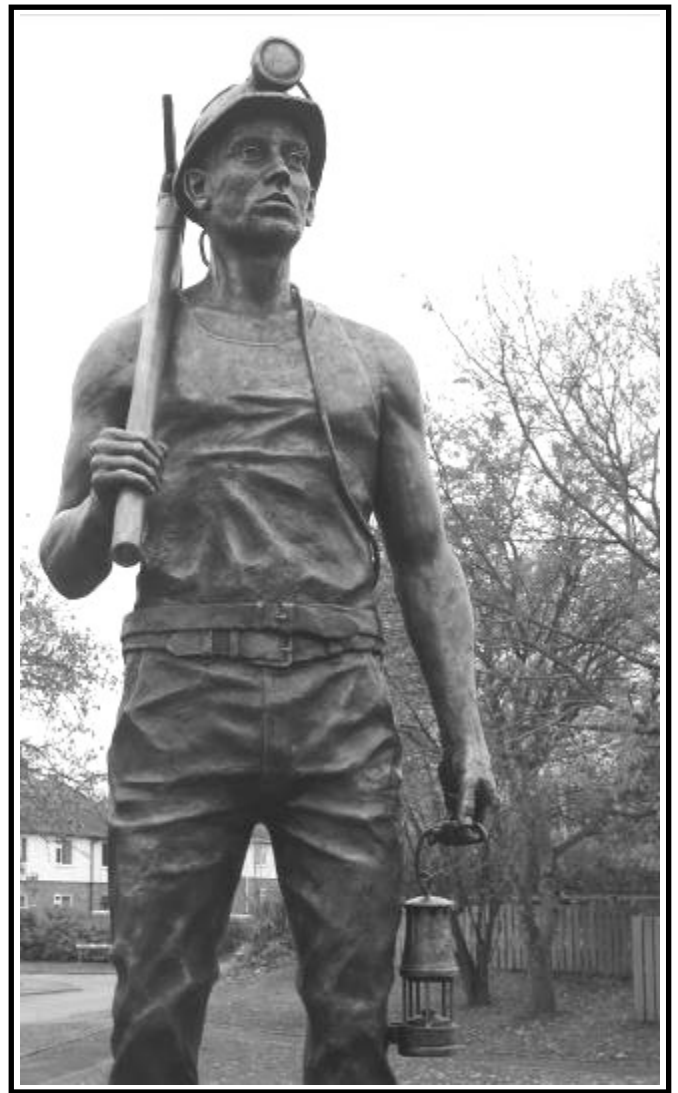
The main hall at the Institute was full as James Bond of BBC Radio Shropshire introduced the invited guests, who included the Mayor of Oswestry, Sandy Best, the Mayor of Wrexham Council, Andy Williams, Chair of Chirk Town Council, Jacky Alan, Chairs of the Parish councils from Weston Rhyn, Gobowen and St Martins (the last of whom who had a very touching story about his grandad).

**Moreton Hall School** had written a moving tale about the closure, which was performed by pupils which was very well received.

**St Martins School Choir** then sang '**We are the young**'.

At the end of the afternoon the Chair of the Project Committee, Sue Schofield, thanked all who had taken part, including the WI who made the drinks and served the soup and bread rolls, ( which had been kindly donated by Bloomers Bakery) and she also thanked the very many people who had made the day such a success.

In finishing, Sue reminded everyone of the Christmas Eve tradition when miners would congregate at the pit bottom and sing carols, and it was fitting that the event closed with the singing of Silent Night, led by the choir.



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## “My Money Matters” supported by Three Parishes Big Local



We fund “My Money Matters”, a Citizens Advice Shropshire project that has now been going for more than a year and has helped over 125 local people, mostly with benefits advice or switching utilities. The advice and support that they have received from Karen Williams through My Money Matters has helped them get over £95,000 in extra benefits between them. This is money that they were entitled to but didn’t know that they could claim.

If you, or someone you know, might benefit from the advice that Karen can provide, drop in and see her for a confidential chat at any of the support sessions that she holds:

Tuesdays: 10am – 1pm at St Martins Community Centre

Wednesdays: 9:30am – 12:30pm at Weston Rhyn Institute

Thursdays: 2pm – 5pm at Gobowen Central Library and Hub.

You can also contact Karen on 07526 169305 to make an appointment to see her at one of these sessions, or for a home visit.

### **Three Parishes Means Business**

Our project to support local businesses and social enterprises has been moving forward quite quickly over the last few months. Highlights include:

**Business Survey** – we’ve sent out postal and email surveys to local businesses to try and get feedback about the support that is needed. If you would like a copy of the survey to complete, please get in touch.



**Small business grants** – we've awarded small grants to Wilson's Bookkeeping, Love our Shops UK, Time and Fitness for you, A Mere Cycle and COAP CIC, all local businesses. For more information about our grants and an application form, please get in touch.

**Promoting your business** – we've started a weekly business post on our facebook page on Wednesdays. Keep an eye on our facebook page, @3PBigLocal, and add your business in the comments on the business post.

**Co-working space** – some local businesses approached us to set up a co-working space in the area. A Co-working space is where people who usually work at home, or on their own, can occasionally come together and work in a shared space with others. We are currently offering this free service at Gobowen Central Library and Hub on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month; the next dates are 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December and 15<sup>th</sup> January. Wi-fi, parking, tea, coffee and biscuits all provided. Booking is not essential but it does help us to know how many people to expect. Please get in touch for more information.

### **Three Parishes Big Local Drop-ins**

We are trialling drop-in sessions at Gobowen Central Library and Hub. Come and see us if you have any questions about Three Parishes Big Local, would like to discuss funding for a project or activity or if you have an idea for something that we might be able to help with. Dates as follows:

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec:	10am – 1pm and 2pm—5pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec:	10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan:	10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm

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## ***Sunday Social Club***



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

Our ladies and some gentleman (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**

**2nd Dec and 6th Jan**

**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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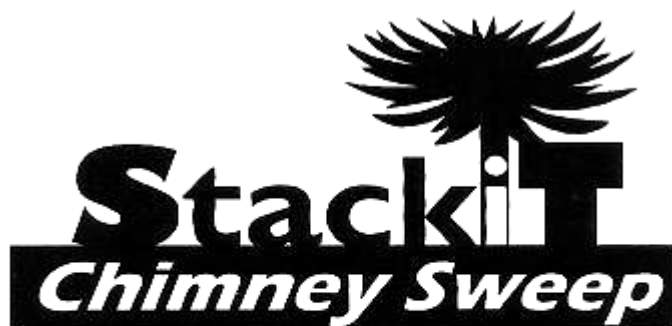
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