

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 smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com by no later than Wednesday 16th January 2019

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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

smartinsvillagelife@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 3rd 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 24th 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

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

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 25th
9.30am**

**Christmas Day Family
Communion**

*For more about Christmas, our activities and services please check out our website
www.stmartinsparish.co.uk*

Phone anytime 778 468 or text 07766 255436 or email: 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 5th. 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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(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 th
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 th	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 th
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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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/

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



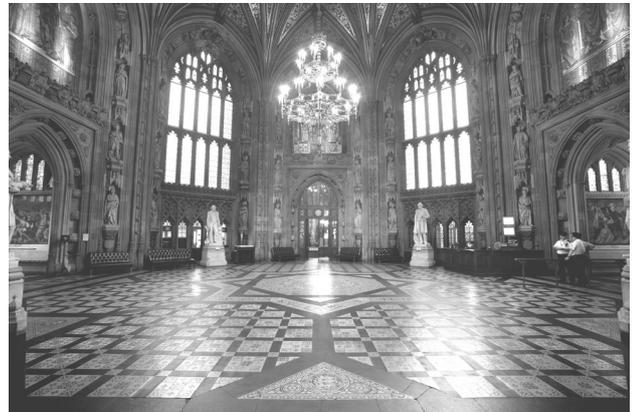


The Visit

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.

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Thank you to everyone who came along to our autumn activity session on November 2nd 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 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

Thank you for supporting us in 2018!

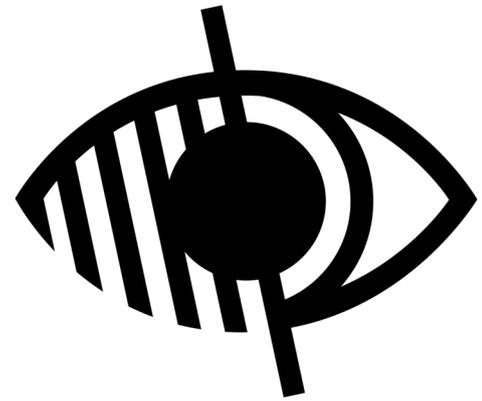


Scam WARNING

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

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SUNDAY 8AM-8PM

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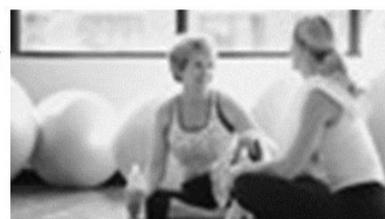
**Have Fun, Get Fit
Legs, Bums & Tums**

Fed up with feeling lethargic, clothes don't fit properly and you want to be more toned?

It's difficult to make changes to be fitter, healthier, happier when you don't know where to start!

Imagine getting fit while having fun and not being judged or feeling embarrassed. How would you feel?

Easy to follow steps and Exercises?



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

Here's what Our Clients Say...

Angela says...

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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.*



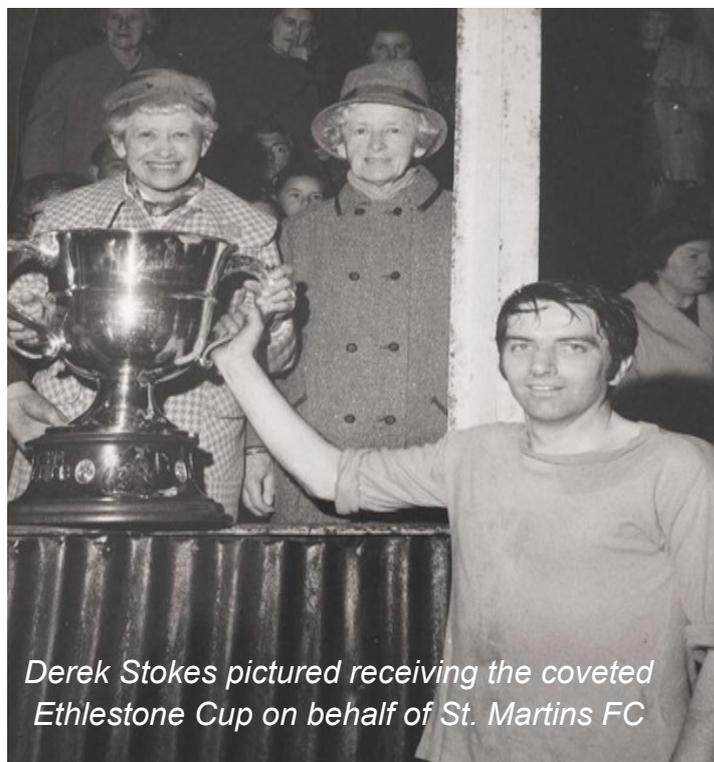
This spirit and camaraderie was typified by brothers and fellow Miners, Derek and Travis Stokes who secured a sound partnership at the heart of a sturdy St. Martins F.C defence renowned for its strength and determination and still reminisced by those old enough to remember those special times.



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.

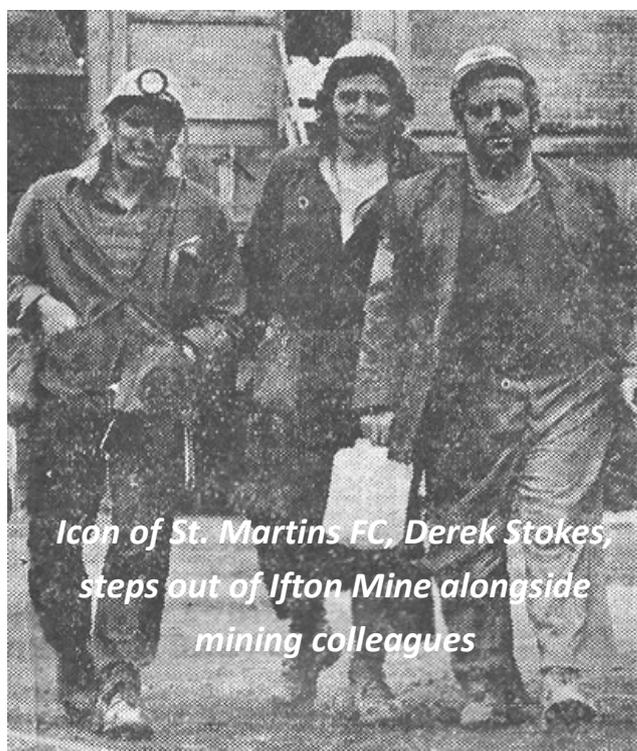
Derek's efforts were justifiably recognised at county level when the Shropshire FA presented him with a Fifty Year Long Service Award in 2011. But Derek was also well known for many other positive reasons outside of football. He was the very first "Unsung Hero" of St Martins. Nominations were asked for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



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

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 24th November 2018.



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

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

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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