

# Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

Welcome to the first edition of 2019.

I'll start the year by thanking the many readers who have contacted various members of our editorial committee to say what you think of Village Life – and it is (almost) always positive! It is really good to know that you appreciate our efforts to bring you a quality magazine that lets you know what is going on in our community, but we could not do it without the people who send us their articles and news of events, whether regular or one off.

An example of this is on page 26 of this issue – a good news story about a lost toy. Not major news, but it falls into our “What is great about St Martins and its People” category and we would love to hear more along the same lines. If something good has happened to you, tell us about it and we'll share it with the rest of the community.

We also urge all clubs, pubs and organisations in the village to let us know what they are up to. We are happy to include any forthcoming event in our centre page “What's On” listings at no cost. We think it can help boost attendance at some events, but if it is not known about it will not attract people to it!

You may notice that there is no mention this month of progress on the proposed new recreation site behind St Martins School. That is simply because, while much work continues in the background, the New Year break has meant that there is nothing of significance to report. That will change in the next few weeks and we expect to bring you good news about it in our March edition.

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 13th March 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

Your Parish Council wishes you a Happy New Year. That's the good news. This next news may be good or bad depending on your viewpoint. First, let me ask you a question. Do you want to live in a safer community? Most of you would reply with a resounding "Yes!". Second, if you want to live in a safer community, would you drive according to the speed limit of 30mph on Ellesmere Rd and Overton Rd? Would you also correctly observe the highway code at the roundabouts in St Martins? Again, I am sure I would hear another resounding "Yes!", but what is the reality? The speed limit is regularly broken and near misses are daily happenings at the roundabouts, especially the one near STANS. Yes, St Martins is a rabbit-run to other villages and cars passing through are guilty of both transgressions, but then, so are villagers. What is the Parish Council doing about both? Well, with respect to the latter, we have got Shropshire Council Highways involved in trying to sort out that travesty of a roundabout near STANS. They DO KNOW about it. Somewhere in Shirehall the wheels of progress are grinding through the funding that is needed and planning what kind of new roundabout will take its place - but they are moving at the speed of a dinosaur walking backwards. Your Parish Council will keep making encouraging noises to the relevant personnel so that it does happen (eventually). With respect to the speeding issue, volunteers (villagers and councillors) from St Martins have formed a Speedwatch (SW) Committee. They will be armed with a radar gun, hi-vis jackets, traffic warning signs, clip sheets, cameras, and mobiles directly connected to the police. The police will know when and where they will be in the village checking the speed of traffic in St Martins. They have police approval and protection. The SW teams will be operating several times per month. They have no powers of prosecution (thankfully, you may say), but the SW teams will note the licence plates of those who regularly break the speed limit and will pass that information to the police. Why? To make St Martins a safer community. I am sure you would agree that is good thing? Is that a resounding "Yes?". I hope so. Anyway, may this year be a great blessing to you all.

Kind regards

Glenn,

Chair St Martins Parish Council



# Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

The January Parish Council Meeting was held in St Martins Centre. With the December meeting postponed until the 20th and then the Christmas & New Year break, there was very little to report.

The Chairman welcomed our new Councillor, Fatema Kapasi, to the meeting replacing Ashley Allum who resigned in September 2018.

On police issues Councillors expressed concern again about cars parking either side of the entrance to St Martins School at the start and end of the school day. This is now causing grave concerns outside the entrance to the primary school. Although Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport has informed us that this road is due to be resurfaced before May and then double yellow lines installed, Councillors requested through PCSO Pete Roberts for more police checks in this area. It was also suggested that we put a notice in all our notice boards with the contact details of all the police team at Oswestry.

Councillors also expressed concern that the police have stated that they were very hard pressed for time and therefore could not meet our requirements on monthly crime reports in the format that we had been receiving. The Police & Crime Commissioner will be asked to give us some assurances that he will increase police manning for our area so that pressure can be eased on our local police force. We are thankful that they are managing to cope but it seems they are at their very limit.

Following concerns expressed by a local resident after reading in our local paper on the 28 December an article from the Canal and Rivers Trust encouraging folk to enjoy a walk along canal towpaths for their health and wellbeing, the Parish Council agreed to express concern to the Canal Trust that the towpath along the 2 mile length of the Llangollen canal leading to the World Heritage site (which has some breath-taking scenery and includes the Pontcysllyte aqueduct) is in a very poor state of repair, very uneven and muddy and dangerous at this time of year when many millions are being spent to restore other canals which have been defunct for many years

Work has now started on replacing all the street lights owned by the parish council to LED lighting.

The Parish Council agreed to write and thank the Chairman and all her committee for all the hard work and commitment they had all put into the Ifton Colliery Commemorative Project and to all those who helped raise the money needed to erect the bronze statue of a miner of the 60's to the memory of all those who worked at and around the pit.

A schedule of maintenance work has been agreed for the memorial garden.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on the 14th February 2019 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
Fatema Kapasi	
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)

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It seems such a long time ago now, but may I wish a happy healthy new year to you all.

Locally, I continue to work alongside St Martins Parish Council, helping to keep the village running along as smoothly as possible. In the next few months there will be a lot of road resurfacing in the village, along with street lighting being replaced with LED lamps (although this will not yet include the main road street lights owned by Shropshire Council).

The overall response to my questions over the suggestion of 20 mph speed limits in the village has been negative. The majority of those who answered say they would rather see the present 30mph enforced than have a new 20 mph limit that isn't. To try and reduce speeds through the village, we now have some equipment from the police, and a volunteer team from the Parish (some Councillors, some not) who have been trained to use the equipment, so be aware they will be out there checking all speeds inside the 30mph area.

Isn't our new Statue just superb, I know I thanked the committee in my last article but you just can't help looking can you when are driving or walking past,

Please if you need any help, please contact me using the details at the top of the page, or drop in to the Village Centre where I can often be found.

Steve Davenport

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## January's Quiz Answers on page 37

- 1 No Spin is the title of a new autobiography by which Test cricketer?
- 2 Michael Myers is a fictional character from which series of slasher movies?
- 3 What variety of fruit is a jargonel?
- 4 In October, who became the fastest batsman to reach 10,000 runs in one-day internationals?
- 5 What type of garment are Oxford bags?
- 6 Freetown is the capital and largest city of which African country?
- 7 Who did Teresa May say was her favourite cricketer?
- 8 How many times has Lewis Hamilton won the Formula One World Drivers' Championship?
- 9 What was the world's highest mountain before Mount Everest was discovered?
- 10 What type of gun has the Duchess of Cambridge (Kate) bought?



# St. Martins Parish Church

## Service times

**Sundays: 9:30am** our usual Morning Worship Service with Communion (except on 4th Sunday when it is a service of the Word)

**Introduction to Christianity Evenings** starting on 5th Feb - 7:30pm - 9pm. A perfect time to come and join in the conversations about the big "why" questions of life, or to check out Christianity's claims that God gives our lives true meaning and purpose as well as security in the midst of life's storms.

## **Pray for our Patch**

In 2019 we are starting a new initiative which we believe will shine a light into the village; just like the miner's lamp in the coal mines. We are going to prayer walk every road in the village asking God to bless the residents; to bring the healing and peace of Jesus (The Light of the World) into the hearts all who live here.

**If you would like to join us - let me know.** You can pray with us at our meetings (and on prayer walks) or at home. We will publish the streets we are praying for each week on our website and on our noticeboards.



## Weekly Events

**Tuesday** Coffee morning at 10:30am in the Chapter house.

**Wednesdays** 9:30am Mid-week healing prayer service.

*For more about 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 New Year*



You may have seen the newly formed **Community Speedwatch Team** doing their stuff on Wednesday 30th January, with their 'High Vis' vests and speed gun.

The community has highlighted the issues of speeding in the village and this is the latest deterrent for the village. The Parish Council are also investigating the possibility of installing flashing speed warnings or VAS (Vehicle Activation System) in the near future.

Community Speedwatch monitoring is just that. The team will monitor the speed of vehicles. You can't be prosecuted by the information they gather, but, if your registration records a high speed through the village or shows regular infringement of the 30mph limit, you may well get a letter from the Police to remind you of the restriction or even a visit from a Police Officer.

The people manning the monitoring stations, which will vary in position, are community minded residents, wanting to do their bit to help the wider community. They understand that some drivers may become upset when their details are recorded, but please remember they are not there to be abused in any way, they will not strike any entry from our record sheets or enter any dialog with any member of the public and they will have direct contact with the police whilst on duty, as back up.

**It is our hope that we will never have to record anyone speeding.**

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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.

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

Join us for Coffee, biscuits and a chat

**THURSDAYS 10.30 - 11.30**



## **'Messy Church'**

### **Mothering Sunday Service**

**SUNDAY MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**11.00**

Listen to a story told by Rev Ruth Shoreman

Try some spring crafts

Join us for coffee & traditional Simnel Cake!



# 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

Leslie Younger

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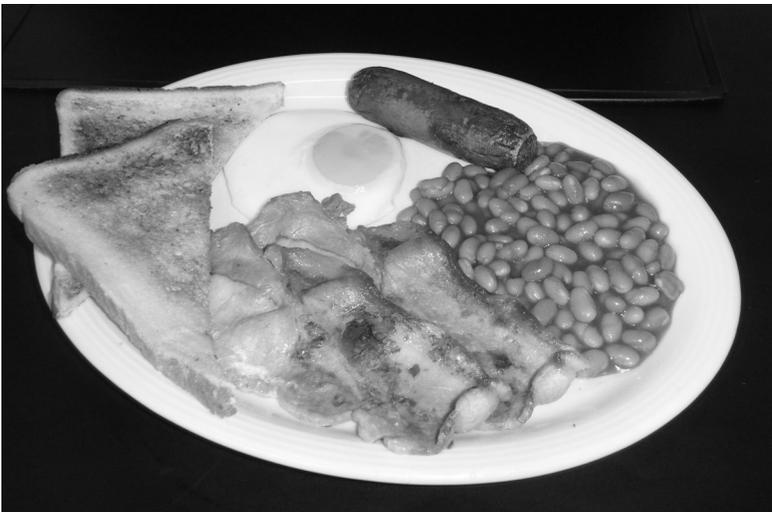
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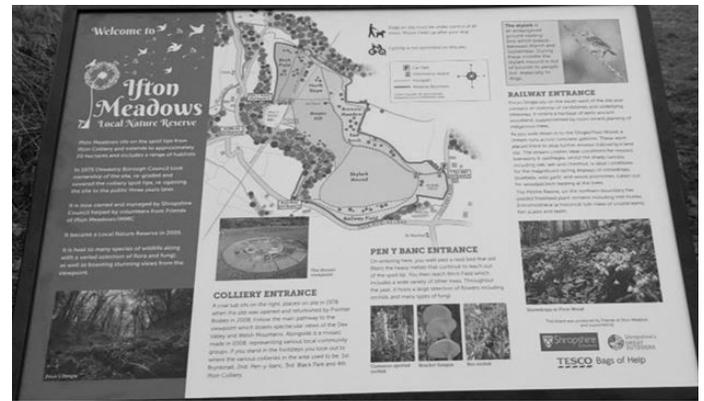
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We start 2019 on a positive note with the erection this month of the three Interpretation boards. Financed by Tesco's 'Bags of Help' and Shropshire Council and designed and written by IMMC/Friends of Ifton Meadows.

Before starting this project I had not realised how much work goes into producing one of these boards. The pictures on the Nature boards are photographs taken on site by various people and I would like to thank them for allowing us to use them. The history board was different, trying to condense the history of Ifton Colliery down so that it would fit onto the board took quite some time and several rewrites. We had hoped to get this particular board on site for 2018 in time for the 50th anniversary of the closure of Ifton Colliery but the finished boards did not arrive till the second half of December.



With the restraints Shropshire Council are having to deal with, 2019 will see many new challenges both for Ifton Meadows your Local Nature Reserve and many of the other services they provide. So can I ask you to help us continue to have an input into what happens on site by making us one of your New Year's Resolutions! Join us at either our Monthly Meetings (7.30 p.m. on second Tuesday of each month at St.Martins Centre) and our Workdays ( second Sunday of each month (weather permitting) 1.30 p.m. at the Colliery main entrance).

We plan to do more surveying in 2019, so need to have people who are prepared on a regular basis to help note down what and where plants, fungi, etc, are growing on site. This will build up a record of everything we have. We shall also be erecting camera posts - these will be at various points throughout the site and will have a small frame on top for your phones/cameras and this will mean that with your help we can have a record of what is happening at that vantage point throughout the year.

There are lots of ways of helping us - if you would like more information give me a ring on 01978.710327.

Our February meeting will be on Tuesday 12th, 7.30p.m. at St.Martins Centre and our Workday will be Sunday 10th - 1.30p.m. at Colliery entrance to the site.

Ann Williams



# IFTON COLLIERY

Commemorative Project

# Commemoration Day

**November 24th 2018**

Well here we are in a new year, Mr MOTS is looking resplendent standing on his plinth in the middle of the village. We have had lots of good comments about the artistry and what a fitting monument it is to the miners. We have also had one or two reports from individuals as to how it has had a big impact on their lives. It's amazing when you set out to do one thing and you hear that the ripples have affected people in a very different way.

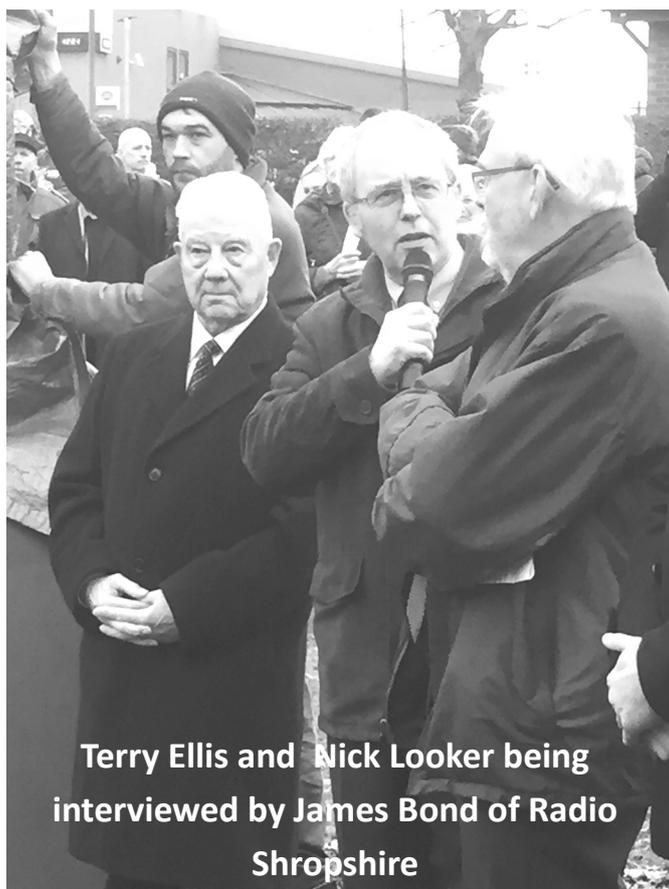
What a wonderful day it was and to have both BBC Central News and ITV Midland News teams was the icing on the cake. Did you catch bulletins that evening, both channels had our village as their first report item - normally saved for the most important item of the day. St Martins is important and was most important on that day. The Advertiser gave a full page (without any adverts) and the Star also gave a full page (but with some adverts). Radio Shropshire out did themselves by not only reporting the event every hour on their news bulletins but also had Terry Ellis on at 7:50am that morning and had a recording of Sue Schofield talking about the day. James Bond, a reporter for the Radio station, who very amiably compèred the day, also talked about it on the following day.

All in all, St Martins was put on the map that day and I think it's down to all those who supported the event and helped raise the funds needed. It was a big ask, so thank you.

Looking towards the future we will be looking at several smaller additional projects:

- ◆ Put 3 more plaques on the plinth giving the history of the mine.
- ◆ Create a DVD of the day itself.
- ◆ Establish a mini museum in the 'Stute.
- ◆ Floodlight Mr MOTS.
- ◆ Establish CCTV covering the statue.
- ◆ Create what I term as a coffee table book giving the detailed history, all the photos we have and include some of the miners memories.
- ◆ Create a new walkway around Mr MOTS

There will be lots to talk about and we will do what we can, it might take another 12 months before any of this happens.



Terry Ellis and Nick Looker being interviewed by James Bond of Radio Shropshire

# **ST MARTINS CENTRE**



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**Oswestry Rural North,**  
**Safer Neighbourhoods Team**  
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**PCSO Dave Hughes – 07870 219190**  
**PCSO Pete Roberts – 07870 219019**

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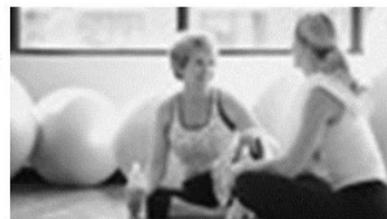
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## Moreton Hall Women Speak Out



# Moreton Hall

Moreton Hall's public speaking teams are through to the regional finals of the Business and Professional Women's annual competition.

This is an annual competition, celebrating young speakers from across the United Kingdom.

Moreton entered two teams into the first round of the public speaking competition. The Year 11 team included the chairwoman, Belinda Matthews; giving the votes of thanks, Emma Vivian; and keynote speaker Florence Tyne.

The winning team discussed what exams really test and focused on the general integrity and efficiency of exams. Florence commented:

"My conclusion was that our system of testing especially for GCSEs here in the UK is outdated for our era. Creativity is more valuable and yet exams take away an individual's creativity to fit a spec and grade.

I suggested that the US continuous assessment method of testing would be much more prudent for the UK. This method of testing is proven to cater for the individual's strengths and weaknesses."

The Lower Sixth team consisted of Hattie Jones, Tatyna Kahn and Cerys Chamberlain. Their topic was "Tulip Mania". Cerys explained the origin of the term:

"Tulip mania was a speculative bubble that occurred in 1636-37 in Holland, where Tulips became massively overpriced to the point where a single bulb could be worth upwards of a good country home.

People invested heavily in the flower and many lost their livelihoods when it eventually popped due to demand failing to remain at such a height given the price increases."

Merriel Halsall-Williams, Head of Spoken English at Moreton Hall school, commented: "The girls presented themselves with confidence and poise. This is a well deserved achievement."

Both of the winning teams will go through to the regional finals in Belfast, next March.



# St Martins FC



Father Christmas was comparatively generous to St. Martins FC during December, starting with an impressive 2-1 away win at Wellington in the Ethlestone Cup followed by a 4-1 home victory over Barnton, but these results were followed by a distinct dip in form particularly in games played at home, drawing 2-2 with Stone Old Alleynians and losing to 'Stockport' and 'Main Road' both of whom they had beaten comfortably away earlier in the season.

The situation wasn't helped because the team were without a game on a couple of Saturdays however the club received some good news as their Goalkeeper; George Austin, was awarded the 'North West Counties Football League Division 1 South', 'Goalkeeper of the Month Award'. George managed to keep clean sheets in seven games in November as well as picking up the 'Man of the match' award on two occasions.

An 8 – 1 thrashing of 'Welsh League' members, 'Rhos Alwyd' in a friendly match organised to replace a postponed fixture vs. Stone Dominoes, did lift spirits and confidence with Shawn Melusi firing home an impressive four goals. The stage was set for the first ever 'local derby' away to F.C. Oswestry on Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2019.

This game proved to be a typical 'local derby' with both teams giving 100% and emotions running high as the first goal scored by Ryan Jones for Oswestry was a questionable penalty. Brendon Price scored the goal of the match receiving a deep cross from Jack Bates to power an accurate header into the opposite corner of Oswestry's net

Following a misunderstanding in the St. Martins defence Oswestry winger, Liam Parry's, long shot escaped Keeper George Austin's dive to restore Oswestry's lead in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute.

Shortly after Oswestry taking the lead, Jamie Hands calmly fired home another dubious penalty to draw St. Martin's level.

Owen Lloyd 45<sup>th</sup> minute goal also had some mystery involved as a free-kick was taken before the St. Martins defenders realised, so the ball that was played into the penalty box bounced off the post and several players before creeping across the goal-line. Manager Dan Steven's response to this incident resulted in him being sent-off from the dug-out.

St. Martins started the second half in determined fashion with centre-forward Carl Bailey's energetic runs causing panic in the Oswestry defence and Brendon Price calm control and distribution always dangerous and so it proved in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute as Price was in the right place at the right time to fire home St. Martin's equaliser.



*Brendon Price maintaining accurate passing within a hectic competitive game v FC Oswestry*

Sadly, early into the first-half St. Martins paid a high price for this draw as centre back and last season's player of the year, Josh Parker, received a serious injury to his shoulder and was taken to Shrewsbury Hospital. St Martins FC and all associated with the club wish Josh a speedy recovery.

St. Martins made the long trip to Alsager Town on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January for what turned out to be another eventful game. Recent injuries to Josh Parker, Tom Ash and Jordan Davies challenged Manager Dan Stevens, but the team started the game confidently, dominating the play but failing to score. A failure that plagued them as they were reduced to 10 men minutes before half-time when Callum Bennet was sent off for foul play. In spite of this drawback the Saints held firm and actually created the better chances of the second half but Tom Brown opened the scoring for Alsager with a freak goal in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute which deceived Saint's keeper George Austin with a strange bounce that looked to be flying out, but actually swung back in the heavy wind into the top corner of the net. Saint Martins responded well to this set-back by taking the game to their opponents with both Carl Bailey and Jamie Hands firing inches wide and over the bar. The Saints grabbed a deserved equaliser in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute when Stuart Dicken rose to head home Harvey Plummer's corner. In the closing minutes George Austin pulled off the 'save of the match' denying Brown his second goal for Alsager with an acrobatic dive.



# What's on in February 2019

|                        |                                                                         |                       |                  |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Friday 1, 8,<br>15, 22 | Oswestry Family & Local History<br>Group                                | Oswestry Library      | 1.30-4pm         |
| Tues 5th               | WI<br>Making Paper Flowers                                              | St Martins Institute  | 7:30pm           |
| Wed 6th                | Hearing Aid Clinic                                                      | Oswestry Library      | 12noon           |
| Thur 7th               | Learning at Lunchtime:<br>Our Local Star                                | Oswestry Library      | 12.30-<br>1.30pm |
|                        |                                                                         |                       |                  |
| Sun 10th               | Work Day/Green Gym                                                      | Colliery Entrance     | 1:30pm           |
| Tues 12th              | IMMC                                                                    | St Martins Centre     | 7:30pm           |
| Wed 13th               | Weston Rhyn Gardening Club<br>Virtual Tour of<br>Dorothy Clive's Garden | Weston Rhyn Institute | 7:30pm           |
| Thurs 14th             | St Martins Parish Council                                               | St Martins Centre     | 7:00pm           |
| Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> | Wildlife Group<br>Mandy Cartwright – Newts                              | Weston Rhyn Institute | 7:30pm           |
|                        |                                                                         |                       |                  |