

# Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

Well it is nice to be back, our first full magazine after lock down.

What is it that we want to do with the magazine from now on. The main thing to achieve is to make it sustainable. We find ourselves with a quite a large shortfall even though we have increased the costs of the advertising for the first time since we started (see page 25) and asked the Centre to reduce the cost of printing which they have and this will be an ongoing exercise and the best news is the Ridgway Rentals Ltd has agreed to sponsor us. There are nearly 200 new homes planned for the village over the next 5 years so our cost will rise as soon as they are built, somehow we need to factor in these higher costs. Yes, we could rise the costs of advertising again but we could lose out by out pricing ourselves.

We need your help, is anyone willing to donate a monthly or annual sum via Standing Order/Direct Debit say £2 a month or £20 a year or similar? If the answer to that question is YES please email us at [smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com) and we will send you the bank details which will allow you to set it up. There is a donation box in Stan's but we are only getting about £20-£30 a quarter from that, it's nowhere near enough, please if you can give a regular donation it will help to keep the magazine going.

You may have noticed our new cover, what do you think? From the feedback I've had already it is well liked, I think most people just like the change. At this point, with your help, we might change the cover picture every year but that involves new ideas coming through and that's where you come in, please email me your ideas and/or pictures, I can't promise to use them all and it might take a few years before they are seen.

How have you coped with lock down?! Has there been any highlights, good things that have happened due to COVID, have you made new friends? Learnt a new skill? Tell us about it, it doesn't have to be a long essay, half a dozen lines will do. Your story will no doubt encourage others.

.....  
**If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication  
please email it to [smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com)  
by no later than Wednesday 15th September 2021**  
.....

**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](http://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](mailto:smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com)

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

# Parish Council

## FROM THE CHAIR

Hi and welcome back to everyone reading our local news.

Our gardens are looking lovely, flowers everywhere, and so many people are making an effort to make our village look welcoming. Planters and hanging baskets, flower tubs, and even the grass verges look happy. A big thank-you to our litter pickers, and all who help to tidy the village. I would like to see the bins used more on the play park, a few selfish individuals are spoiling children and parents enjoyment of the well used play equipment.

We have people moving into and out of the village, all the answers to “newbies” questions can be answered in Village Life, from telephone numbers to local business connections.

Our Parish Council has a couple of vacancies which we would like to get filled, if you are interested in our village and would like to join us please contact me, Chairperson of the Parish Council, or Edward, our Clerk, by email to [clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk) or

[helen.williams@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:helen.williams@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk) and we can send an application form.

We are quite busy getting our new recreation area started, and it is exciting to be part of a partnership with St Martins Football Club and St Martins School.

Currently we are fighting our corner to retain the St Martins Surgery, which is under consultation with a possibility of closure. As a village of more that 4500 people we do need our surgery.

We are putting forward every argument we can think of and have suggested alternative accommodation for a surgery.

We are in discussion with SCC for improvements to the mini roundabout by Stans, it has been poorly designed, and there are frequent disagreements on this junction.

I do hope we are able to enjoy a better summer this year, a choice of wearing a mask, and being able to travel again are steps in the right direction.

Kind regards to all



### ***Extract from the Clerks report.***

This year as in previous years the parish council has put up twenty hanging baskets on various street lighting lamp posts through the village. These were again planted and put up by Neil Rheade.

Also, our thanks go to Greg Moore who has made and donated a large wooden planter for the Memorial Garden plus two small wooden planters that are positioned either side of the Miners Bench in front of the Institute.

# Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

Following the parish council elections in May this year, only thirteen electors stood for election. This resulted in no election but left two vacancies on the parish council. One has now been filled but there is still one vacancy. Please see details on the notice boards and the website. However recently we received a letter of resignation from Paula Rooney who was leaving the area. This has now created a casual vacancy which again details have been published on the notice boards and the website. With no meeting in August, we hope to fill both these vacancies before our September meeting.

All Parish Councillor's contact details are included in this edition of the Village Life.

At the Annual Meeting of the parish council in May Cllr Helen Williams was re-elected as Chairman with Cllr Nina Mistry being re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the parish council.

On highways, discussions are still taking place with Shropshire Council on design work to try and improve the traffic flow around the mini roundabout by Stans Superstore. In addition, extra signage and road markings have been requested either side of Escob bridge. Shropshire Council have also been asked to carry out a feasibility study on installing traffic lights on either side of this bridge.

A recreation project team has been set up with members from the parish council, school and football club to oversee the new all-weather community recreation facility adjacent to St Martins School. A Business Plan has been agreed and work on the new access to the site will commence in August.

Concern is still being expressed by the parish council and local residents over the closure of the doctor's surgery in St Martins. Despite talks between Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport, representatives from the parish council, the Clinical Commissioner Groups (CCG) and Rachel Robinson, Head of Public Health at Shropshire Council with the Practice Manager and other representatives from Chirk Surgery, at this stage they seem reluctant to reopen it. Originally it was closed since the start of the pandemic as they were not able to continue to manage service delivery at the site during this time to comply with the socially distancing requirements. Now they are stating that they do not have the staff to manage this surgery and the surgery is unsuitable because of its size of rooms for future use. Discussions are still taking place.

The parish council continue to comment on planning application submitted to Shropshire Council. Shropshire Council's planning officer still has concerns over the proposed development at the old Ifton School site mainly due to noise levels from the adjacent business park and whether the school building should be retained.

The next meeting of the parish council will be held in St Martins Centre at 7.00 pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Edward Davies, Parish Clerk

## Current Parish Councillors

Neil Arthan	01691 777751
Andrew Cast	01691 773389
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
John Hodgson	07841 451212
Duncan Laing	07702 991845
Nina Mistry	01691 657324
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
Lesley-Anne Roberts	01691 776438
Natalie Rowley	07870 507509
Pierre Saunier	01691 778806
Sophie Hughes-Saunier	01691 778806
Sue Schofield	01691 777710
Helen Williams	01691 777561

# Shropshire Council

**Councillor Steve Davenport**

*County Councillor for St Martins, Dudleston, and Dudleston Heath*

Tel 07944097876    Email [steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk)

~~~~~

Hello All

Where do I start, after so much has happened in all our lives over the last 16 months and by the time Village Life drops on your doorsteps we should have taken yet another leap into the unknown, getting back our freedoms with, one would hope sensible precautions, let's hope it's once and for all.

Big thank you to Keith and Paula for running the food bank during this time, there were many other volunteers, *you know who you are*, there were businesses that kept us all going, thank you Stans, St Martins garage, and all the transport companies who carried on delivering goods to filling the shelves.

As most of you know the big issue for St Martins and surrounding villages is the closure of the doctors surgery, by the current Medical professionals in Chirk, We met with them recently, myself, the PC, along with an elderly patient, we made a strong case for them to remain in the village as they have over 4000 registered patients this side of the border, the CCG and the head of public health at Shropshire Council on the case too, discussions are continuing,

There's a lot of investment happening in the village new families moving in, loving the friendly nature of St Martins, New business opening and more established businesses creating jobs.

We are looking for new trustees at the St Martins Centre, we need to start work on events, back to car boot sales, Open days, Village fate, etc. if you'er interested please get in touch.

I'd like to thank everyone who took part in the elections in May I'm here to represent everyone, my details are above.

Steve

# St. Martins Parish Church



## THANK YOU

We would like to say a **BIG thank you to the people of St Martins for the way they acted so respectfully and safely**, without complaint, at funerals and services during this difficult time. Honouring those who have passed and their families. This meant that we could provide a safe environment for those attending.

At the time of writing we are waiting on an update to the guidelines for Public Worship. Please check our website for more details soon.

## Service times

**Sundays: 9:30am** our usual Morning Worship Service, also streamed on zoom. Go to our website for details.

## Weekly Events

Tuesdays - Coffee Morning - OPENING SOON.

Wednesdays 9:30am - Morning Prayer.

Friday's Youth Group - school years 5-7 and year 9 - 11 *for info please ask.*

Afternoon Social - starting soon in the Church Hall.



Last week we welcomed Isla Ayris(left) and Yasmin Bebb (right) to church for their Christenings. The first since lockdown.



**To book a Christening or Wedding and for any other enquiry please contact.**

Revd Stuart Jermy - saintmartinjohns@icloud.com; 778 468; mobile: 07766 255436

Or check out our website: [www.stmartinsparish.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsparish.org.uk)

# VILLAGE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME

AN EXCITING AND ENGAGING PROGRAMME OF FREE  
ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-12 YEARS

Four hours of games and activities  
for children of all abilities from the  
26th of July to the 27th of August.

Free healthy meal and beverages for all participants

**Gobowen Playing Fields** - Mondays 26th July; 2nd, 9th, 16th and  
23rd August. 1.30pm - 5.30pm

**Whittington Primary School** - Tuesdays 27th July, 10th and 24th  
August 2pm - 6pm

**Whittington Castle Playing Fields** - Tuesdays 3rd and 17th  
August. 2pm - 6pm

**Weston Rhyn Recreation Ground** - Wednesdays 28th July; 4th,  
11th, 18th and 25th August. 9.30am - 1.30pm

**St Martins 3-16 School** - Fridays 30th July; 6th, 13th and 20th  
August. 9am - 1pm

**St Martins Playing Fields** - Friday 27th August. 9am - 1pm

This opportunity is provided as part of the government's expanded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme being delivered across Shropshire, funded by the Department for Education. Thanks also go to a number of other local funders who have provided additional support to enable our four hour provision to be free for all children and young people attending. To find out more, view the 'What's On' guide and sign up to the HAF newsletter go to: [www.Shropshire.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.Shropshire.gov.uk/HAF).

Email [info@tnsfcfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@tnsfcfoundation.org.uk)  
for more information, or to register

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ENTRY



# **St Martins Methodist Church**

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister for St Martins

Rev Julia Skitt - phone: 07810 360778



A big thanks to everyone who put a on our TREE OF HOPE, lets hope your wishes have come true. Service in the Chapel are resuming, details will be displayed on the notice board.

St Martins Methodist Church are pleased to continue to support St Martins Rainbows, Brownies & Guides and we hope to see them again in September.

Facebook: St Martins Methodist Church

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## **The Storyboard, St Martins School and Ridgway Rentals**

In 2018, pupils of St Martins School worked hard on making a storyboard to go next to the miner's statue to tell the story behind it.

Cassy Price and Dylan Arias (pictured) were two of the students who worked on the project which was led by Mrs Jones (pictured).

On commemoration Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018, the final board was not totally ready for display so the draft board was displayed and now has been returned to the school for future projects. The Board was presented to the school by Mr Terry Ellis on behalf of the project committee.

Since then, the final story board was completed and has been framed and mounted on legs made of very solid materials so will hopefully stay on display for many years to come.

Local plant hire company, Ridgway Rentals Ltd. kindly paid for the making of the storyboard and Managing Director, Stuart Jones, was asked to reveal it at the ceremony on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Stuart said "We were glad to support such a meaningful project. The story behind the statue is so important and commemorates the miners and their part in the development of the village. I am also glad that I was able to be a part of the day to reveal the storyboard for all to see."

New bronze plaques were also added to the base of the Miner's Statue that list all the miners names that sadly died whilst working in the local mine and tells a narrative about why the statue is there for current and future residents & visitors.



[info@oswestryandborders.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@oswestryandborders.foodbank.org.uk)

website: [oswestryandborders.foodbank.org](http://oswestryandborders.foodbank.org)

tel:01691 671 940 mob:07399 291 955

Well done and thank you!

Oswestry & Borders Foodbank would like to thank **Stans Supermarket, St Martins Church** and the **Moors Methodist church** for their collection points throughout the Pandemic.

Since April 2020 their customers and congregations have **donated just over 1.1 tonnes of food and toiletries to help towards alleviating hardship in our local area.**

Your wonderful contributions are part of the 61 tonnes of food and toiletries which have been donated by the amazingly generous wider community since the Pandemic began. It has truly made a difference as since March 2020 we have given away nearly 58 tonnes to help those most in need.

We work alongside nearly 100 referring agencies spanning health, social, housing, work, education, youth & family, crisis teams and debt help.

If you or someone you know is struggling to afford food and other necessities, please get in touch and we can help.

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**TEL: 01691 770713**  
**MOB: 07957 909106**

# ST MARTINS CENTRE



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***Overton Road, St Martins, Oswestry. SY11 3AY***

***Tel:01691770204 (answer machine on)***

**Email: [stmartinscentre@mail.com](mailto:stmartinscentre@mail.com)**

**We are gradually reopening, watch for details:**

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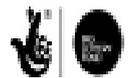
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SUNDAY 8AM-8PM

## ST MARTINS YOUTHIE

St Martins Centre, SY11 3AY

**Indoors or outdoors, we are back!**  
**Friday September 17<sup>th</sup>**

Watch our Facebook page: [STMartinsYOUTHCLUB](#) for details.  
All school year 6 & older welcome.

For more crime prevention advice please feel free to get in contact with your local police team and 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.  
Email - [oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

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# St Martins School

**2021**

## Secondary staff team for September

Joining St Martins in September will be our new deputy head teacher, Mr Christopher Edwards. Mr Edwards will be leading on the quality of education across the school, ensuring lessons are engaging, stretch all students and prepare them for future life. Ms Mottershaw will continue in her role leading the Aspire phase of School. Ms Jones will continue to lead on the Advance phase and primary curriculum and Ms Faulks will lead on Activate, Early years and key stage 1. Ms Katherine Mooney will be leading on inclusion and safeguarding and Ms Hannah Weaver will lead the tutorial team in the secondary phase and PHE across the whole school.

Its fantastic to see some of our brilliant extra curricular activities re start this term—Our Cadets attended their annual summer camp for the day and took part in number of different activities, including adventure training and weapon handling. Our bronze DofE year 10 students have successfully completed their bronze expedition over the Llangollen region. The students did extremely well in hot conditions and now look to progress to the silver award when we return in September.

|                                        | Head of Year              | Tutors               |                         |                     |                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Year 11                                | Ms Evans                  | Ms Evans             | Ms Phoenix              | Mr Ward             |                       |
| Year 10                                | Mr Moore                  | Mr Edwards           | Ms Price                | Ms Vaughan          | Ms Carlton            |
| Year 9                                 | Mr Machin                 | Mr Machin            | Mr McKinnon             | Ms Crighton<br>Poli | Ms Peterson           |
| Year 8                                 | Mrs Ellis                 | Mrs Ellis            | Mr Powell               | Ms Smith            | Ms Tomley             |
| Year 7                                 | Mr James                  | Mr James             | Ms Young                | Ms Alexander        | Ms Griffiths          |
| Nurse—<br>Ms Faulks<br>and<br>Ms Moore | Reception -<br>Ms Newland | Year 1—<br>Ms Sayers | Year 2—<br>Ms Evans     | Year 3—<br>Mr Riley | Year 4—<br>Mr Spelman |
|                                        |                           | Year 5—<br>Ms Fiddy  | Year 6—<br>Ms Pritchard |                     |                       |



This week year 10 GCSE Geography students had an extremely successful day by the coast where they visited Talacre beach as part of their fieldwork requirement for their GCSE exam. They went to investigate what makes the sand dunes a distinctive landscape, where students completed a transect through the dunes to look at biodiversity. They also took part in some conservation work with the local rangers to remove ragwort and clematis, two invasive species in the dune complex. Students then worked in groups to compare sections of the beach and the sand dunes and since returning to school have written up their findings.



Year 1 and year 2 had a fantastic trip this week to Chester Zoo ; fortunately the rain stayed away!!



### Times & Pricing

#### **Breakfast club**

7.40am - 9.10am - **£5.00** Includes cereal, fruit and a drink

8.20am - 9.10am - **£3.50** Includes a drink

8.50am - 9.10am - **£1.50**

#### **Afterschool club**

2.55pm - 4.15pm **£5.00** includes drink, light snack & fruit

2.55pm- 5.30pm **£9.00** includes drink, light snack & fruit

### Booking

Booking is now essential to guarantee a place at either breakfast or afterschool club. Please book as much in advance as possible to secure your dates. You need to give a minimum of 3 days notice for cancellation, failure to do so will result in the session being billed.

You will need to ensure a booking contract is completed and sent back to Hollie Poulter ([hollie.poulter@stmartins3-16.org](mailto:hollie.poulter@stmartins3-16.org)) before your child/ward starts their first session.

### **New start and finish times for September 2021**

As reported last week In September we will be changing the start and finish times for our students as below. At 3.05 Secondary students will be allowed to walk home or catch a bus. Students being collected by car will be assembled and supervised. They will then be released after the buses have left at 3.20.

|             | Nursery | Reception | Year 1 and 2 | Years 3,4,5,6 | Secondary all years |
|-------------|---------|-----------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Start time  | 8.55    | 8.55      | 9am          | 9.10          | 8.40                |
| Finish time | 14.55   | 15.00     | 15.05        | 15.10         | 3.05                |



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# Nick names used for surnames

most commonly used in HM forces.

(Answers page 27)

1. Digger
2. Nobby
3. Chalky
4. Dusty
5. Pearly
6. Timber Dick
7. Cabbage
8. Spider
9. Smudger
10. Jack
11. Farmer
12. Dinger



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# What's on in August 2021!

|                   |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| From 19th<br>July | Timed entry<br>Search Chirk Castle | Chirk Castle Is OPEN                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Book Now              |
| From 19th<br>July | Timed entry<br>Search Erddig       | Erddig Wrexham Is OPEN                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Book Now              |
| Sun 1st           | Classic Cars                       | Whittington Castle                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 12-4pm                |
|                   |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |
| Sun 15th          | Car Boot Sale<br>Book a pitch £6   | Whittington Castle                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Pitches from 8<br>-15 |
| Sun 15th          | Little Red and the Big<br>Bad Wolf | Whittington Castle<br>Tickets are available from<br>Whittington Castle by e-mail<br>info@whittingtoncastle.co.uk<br>or phone 01691 662500<br><a href="https://folksytheatre.co.uk/">https://folksytheatre.co.uk/</a>      | 2-5pm                 |
| Sun 15th          | The Tempest                        | Whittington Castle<br>Tickets are available from<br>Whittington Castle by e-mail<br>in-<br>fo@whittingtoncastle.co.uk or<br>phone 01691 662500<br><a href="https://folksytheatre.co.uk/">https://folksytheatre.co.uk/</a> | 7-10pm                |
|                   |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |
| Sun 29th          | Car Boot Sale<br>Book a pitch £6   | Whittington Castle                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Pitches from 8<br>-15 |
|                   |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |