

December - January 2024/25

St Martins
Village
Life

*Merry
Christmas*



This Magazine is Sponsored by Ridgway Rentals Ltd

Clubs and Groups

Bell Ringing

Parish Church Tower Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30pm Sun Service 9:00 - 9:30am
Contact: Tower Captain Dai Cartwright 01691 778215

St Martins Craft and Chatter

Chapter House Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00pm
Contact: Debbie Shaw 01691 777130

St Martins Women's Institute

Lounge of St Martins Miners' Welfare Institute. First Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm
President: Ann Sadler Mobile: 07790 022281 Secretary: Lynn Morgan 778174

Age UK

Cedar Close every Tuesday 10:00am - 2:00pm
Contact: Dee Barnhart 01691 777842 or Marilyn Berry 07769 915201

Ifton Meadows Management Committee:

Workdays on 2nd Sunday of the month 1:30pm at the Meadows
Chair: Ann Williams 01978 710327

St Martins Youth Club

St Martins Centre Fridays in term time 7:00 - 8:00pm
Contact: Sue or Nick Heard 01691 774097

Youth Groups

1st St Martins Rainbows (4-7years) Tuesdays 5:00 - 6:00pm Ellesmere Road Chapel
1st St Martins Brownies Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00pm Ellesmere Road Chapel
1st St Martins Guides Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:30pm Ellesmere Road Chapel
Contact: Rainbows - Mrs Heather Lloyd 01691778598 mobile 07506280482

Brownies - Pam 079320231734 email archerpam@gmail.com

Judith Phillips 01691 690435

2nd St Martins Scout Group

Beavers (6 - 8) Monday	Not currently running	Meet in the Scout Hut
Cubs (8 -10.5) Thursday	6:00 - 7:15pm	Meet in the Scout Hut
Scouts (10.5 -14)Thursday	7:30 - 9:00pm	Meet in the Scout Hut

Contact: Dave Cripps 2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com

St Martins Village Life - stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com

St Martins Village Hall/Centre: Email: stmartinscentre@mail.com

Coffee & Chat Drop-in Tues 10:00am—12:30pm All welcome

Computers available for public use by appointment in the library

Community Speedwatch:

Anyone interested in joining the monitoring please contact George Smith Tel: 01691 770886
or email george.smith@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council

FROM THE CHAIR

Well, we approach the end of another year and it gives me enormous pleasure, on behalf of every one of our Parish Councilors, to wish **EVERYBODY** in our fantastic village, a **VERY HAPPY** and **PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS** and a **JOYOUS NEW YEAR** and also, to use this opportunity to give my personal thanks to all of our councilors, who freely give their time and effort in making our village the most professionally run and operated across our county.

The past year has seen our Parish Council take control of more services from Shropshire Council. We are now responsible for the cutting of roadside grass verges and we hope to have secured a three-year contract for that service, based on all of the positive responses from our parishioners, advising how well our village has looked since we took control; we now control the maintenance of our Public Footpaths; we own and control more street lights than ever before and we are now looking at the renewal of street nameplates.

The Parish Council is here to represent the views of all residents across our wonderful village and we welcome input from as many directions as possible. But you can't forget that we are all volunteers and we now need **YOU** to join our Council. Without a full compliment of Councilors, it puts pressure on the remaining officials.

We presently have vacancies, so PLEASE consider joining us.

Our Council meets every month apart from August and our discussions are strictly limited to two hours maximum in a weekday evening. Surely twenty two hours in a YEAR is not excessive; **we need your help!**

Application forms can be obtained by emailing our Parish Clerk, Edward Davies: clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk

I am delighted that the Parish Council funded kerbside planters have now been delivered to our school and I look forward to seeing them flourishing with plant life and adding a noticeable and attractive frontage to the areas. By the time this section is published we should be near to seeing yellow lines along the school roadsides and precise definition into the 3 Bus Stops with a view to enhancing the safety of pupils, whether using buses or private transport. Safety of pupils is absolutely paramount, and I sincerely hope that all parents share and support my views.

George Smith MBE
Chairman : St Martins Parish Council

Current Parish Councillors

Neil Arthan	01691 777751
Andrew Cast	01691 773389
Nigel Court	07
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
Peter Holmes	01691 772287
Alan Langley	01691 772368
Duncan Laing	07702 991845
Nina Mistry	01691 657324
Natalie Rowley	07870 507509
Sophie Hughes-Saunier	01691 778806
Sue Schofield	01691 777710
George Smith	01691 770286
Helen Williams	01691 777561

Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

The Parish Clerk reported that there were still two vacancies on the Parish Council. Application forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk. With the next local elections scheduled for May next year, this would be a good opportunity for any interested residents to join the Parish Council to see how everything operates before the elections next year.

Following several incidents in the village over the last few weeks, the Parish Council agreed to look at installing another defibrillator on the west side of the village. The owner of Lens Fish & Chip shop has already agreed to one being fixed to the outside wall of his shop.

On highways, Shropshire Council have confirmed that the salt bins at either end of School Lane have been replenished with grit. The Parish Council, after discussions with several residents in Kimberley Lane, are now investigating the possibility of installing several Speed Bump kits on a trial basis along this lane to try and restrict motorists using this lane as a 'Rat Run' between Ellesmere Road and Overton Road. Consultations will now be held with officers from Shropshire Council. However, this could be a drawn-out process, following the Chairman and Parish Clerk's reported lack of response they are experiencing from various officers at Shropshire Council. Should this continue then it was agreed to bring this to the attention of our MP Helen Morgan.

The Parish Council expressed concern that the Planning Inspectors working on the Shropshire Local Plan have recently written to Shropshire Council informing them that the hearing sessions for the examination of the Shropshire Local Plan have been cancelled. It was also noted that a Development Manager from Berrys, property consultants in Shrewsbury representing the Brynkinalt Estate, have requested a meeting with the Parish Council regarding proposals they are developing to provide housing (at least 60 dwellings) on a site at Moors Bank identified in the emerging Shropshire Local Plan. It was also noted that during the latest review of the Shropshire Local Plan, the Parish Council had strongly objected to any future development on this site.

Edward Davies,
St Martins Parish Clerk

Shropshire Council

Councillor Steve Davenport

County Councillor for St Martins, Dudleston, Dudleston Heath,

Mobile 07944097876 Email steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk

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Hello everyone.

Blimey, Christmas edition again, I can't believe where this year has gone!

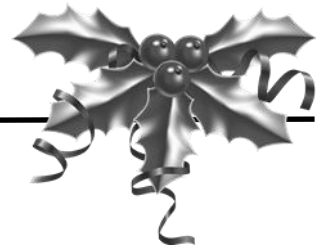
There continues to be joint working between the Parish Council and myself on all things within the village.

There are concerns over speeding vehicles on Overton Road recently, with accidents having been reported. Various methods of reducing speed are being considered, all of which have to be signed off by the police, and of course this does take time. Then there's the responsibility of drivers to abide by the current speed limits in the village. At present it is 30mph, but discussions are being had to reduce this to 20mph.

Work is continuing at the school to push for 'no parking' lines. Funding has to be agreed with the Parish Council, but I'm sure you have already seen the planters on the grass verge ready to be planted up by the school, which will look lovely next year when they're in flower.

As for Shropshire Council, it is struggling with funding - this revolves around the massive costs of adult social care and children's social care which has jumped up significantly and that Governments don't fund. This is now approximately £600m a year, a staggering amount, which leaves much less for just everything else.

I wish you all a **Merry Christmas**, and a Peaceful New Year.



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Here's a nice **Thank you** letter...

***SURPRISE! SURPRISE!!!***

*What a lovely surprise I received on Sunday Morning. I came across a group of people armed with axes and loppers etc. busy removing branches and long shoots from around 'Stiles and Kissing Gates'.*

*These wonderful people deserve a BIG VOTE of THANKS!!*

*It's not a job that many would like to do considering that they turn out voluntary every other Sunday morning.*

*VERY MANY THANKS From a local lass (a bit elderly)*

*Just a final note to say how our lovely village of St Martins is coming up by it's boot laces. We have had a beautiful display of hanging baskets, the grass verges are improving week by week and residents are cutting back hedges along their boundary's so that pedestrians don't get "Flicked in the eye" by shoots. 10 out of 10. Many Thanks.*

# St Martins Parish Church

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

Revd Stuart Jermy

[saintmartinjohns@icloud.com](mailto:saintmartinjohns@icloud.com)

Telephone: 778 468, Mobile: 07766 255 436

## Service times

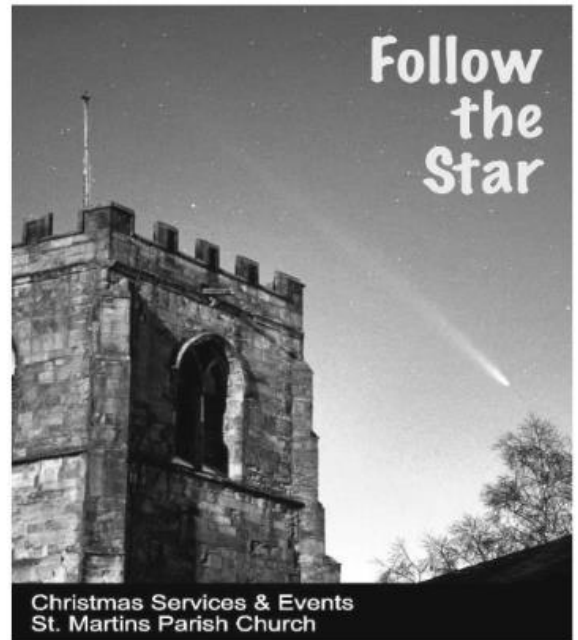
- **Sundays** 9:30am Our usual Morning Worship Service, streamed on zoom. Go to our website for details: [www.stmartinsparish.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsparish.org.uk)

## Weekly Events

- **Monday:** 10.00am Little Saints Baby & Toddler Group
- **Tuesday:** 9.30am Morning Prayer
- **Wednesday:** 10.30am Coffee Morning; 2.00pm Craft & Chatter; 7.00pm Bell Handling Class
- **Friday:** 10.00am Walking Group (meets in the church car park); Youth Group (for information please ask)

## Monthly Events

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month: 3.30pm Afternoon Social in the Chapter House
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month: 9.30am Monthly Communion
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month: 2.00pm Women's Fellowship



## Advent and Christmas at St Martins Parish Church

|                                                        |                    |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>                       | <b>9.30am</b>      | <b>Advent Sunday – All Age Service</b><br>A Family service with something for everyone and a celebration of the first day of Advent as we prepare for Christmas.         |
| <b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>                     | <b>10am-1pm</b>    | <b>Christmas Fayre</b><br>Table Top sale in the Chapter House.                                                                                                           |
| <b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>                     | <b>5pm</b>         | <b>Thanksgiving Remembrance Service</b><br>A time to remember and give thanks for our loved ones who have passed. To provide hope and comfort during this season.        |
| <b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>                      | <b>10.00am</b>     | <b>Carol Service</b><br>Telling the Christmas Story with Carols and readings.                                                                                            |
| <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>                      | <b>4.00pm</b>      | <b>Christingle and Carols around the Crib</b><br>Short service with candle Christingles given out and <b>a special visitor!</b> Great for all the family.                |
| <b>Christmas Eve<br/>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>   | <b>11.00pm</b>     | <b>Candlelit Christmas Eve Service with Communion</b><br>A wonderful start to Christmas day!                                                                             |
| <b>Christmas Day<br/>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | <b>10.00am</b>     | <b>Christmas Day Family Worship</b><br>A family service celebrating the birth of Christ with a short communion.                                                          |
| <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>                   | <b>3.30-5.00pm</b> | <b>Sunday Afternoon Social Christmas Special</b><br>All are welcome for music, games, chat and of course Christmas food. Transport is available for the local community. |

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

# **Sunday Social Club**

## ***Are you at a loss to know what to do on a Sunday Afternoon?***

This may be because you live alone and your family do not live close or are involved in other activities on a Sunday Afternoon. Or you may just want to chat to other folks.

You are invited to join us at

### **St. Martins Church Chapter House on the first Sunday of each month**

Where we meet for a chat with like-minded people and also share afternoon tea. There is a small subscription of £1.00.

We look forward to seeing you.

If mobility is a problem it may be possible to provide transport if you live not too far from the Church

For further information please contact Mrs Valerie Thompson on:  
01691 658756

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## **St. Martins Volunteer Car Scheme**

If you need to get anywhere local and you are unable to access local transport please ring to make a booking.

### **Here to help 07931760879**

Line open 9:00am – 5:00pm 7 days a week

<<<<<>>>>>

Please ring for more information if you would like to be a volunteer driver.

<<<<<>>>>>

No distance too small.

If you want to go to a Doctor's surgery, a hospital appointment, chiropodist, dentist, visit someone in a care home...ring and see how we can help.

<<<<<>>>>>

Are you able to drive and want to help in your community?

We have become a victim of our own success and WE NEED MORE DRIVERS

PLEASE give us a ring and volunteer today.





# St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister for St Martins

Rev Julia Skitt - phone: 07810 360778

## Christmas Celebrations



**Messy Church led by Rev R Shoreman**



Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> - 2:00pm. Tea, cakes, stories & crafts.



**Rainbows, Brownies & Guides Carol Service**



Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm. Carols, readings & mince pies!

**Carols around the tree in Stans**

Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm



**Coffee Morning**



Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> 10:30 - 11:30am

Pop along to hear the St Martins School Choir.



# St Martins Family and Local History Society

7:00 PM

Last Monday of each month

Next meet up is 28th January 2025

St Martins village hall

Please come and join us

£2.00

Visit the facebook page

If you have any photos, articles or stories to share, please get in touch



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# SNOWMAN CUPCAKES



## Ingredients

### For the cupcakes:

200g/7oz caster sugar

175g/6oz plain flour

50g/1¾oz cocoa powder

1½ tsp baking powder

½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

pinch salt

100ml/3½fl oz sunflower oil

2 large free-range eggs

2 tbsp soured cream

125ml/4fl oz boiling water

### For the buttercream:

200g/7oz unsalted butter, softened

400g/14oz icing sugar

1–2 tbsp milk

### To decorate:

100g/3½oz white ready-to roll fondant icing

Orange food colouring paste

Red food colouring paste

12 white marshmallows

Black writing icing tube

2 tsp desiccated coconut

12 pretzel sticks, broken in half

## Method

Preheat the oven to 170C/160C Fan/Gas 3½ and line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper cupcake cases.

Sift the sugar, flour, cocoa, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt into a large mixing bowl. Stir in the sunflower oil, eggs and soured cream until smooth. Add the boiling water and beat again until silky smooth.

Scoop the batter into a jug and pour evenly between the paper cupcake cases. Bake for 20–22 minutes until well risen and a wooden skewer inserted into the middle of the cakes comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

To make the buttercream, beat the butter until pale and light, then gradually stir in the icing sugar and milk until smooth.

Make the snowman noses with 25g/1oz of the fondant icing. Add tiny dots of orange food colouring paste using a wooden skewer and knead until completely orange. Roll into 12 small carrot shapes about 1cm/½ in long. Leave to dry for 30 minutes.

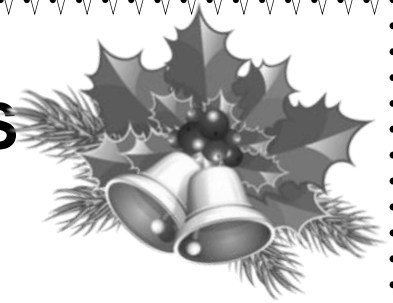
Tint the remaining icing red using the food colouring paste. Dust a work surface with icing sugar and roll into a neat 12cm/4½ in x 6cm/2½ in rectangle. Slice into 12 strips about ½ cm wide, to make the snowman scarves.

Use the black writing icing to draw eyes and a mouth onto each marshmallow and stick an icing carrot just below the eyes.

Spread the buttercream on top of each cake and press a marshmallow into the icing. Scatter over the desiccated coconut and push two pretzel halves into each side of the cupcake for arms. Pipe black icing buttons onto the buttercream and wrap a red scarf around each marshmallow.



# ST MARTINS VILLAGE HALL NEWS



We look forward to Christmas with lots going on!

We have a **Quiz Night** to entertain on **7<sup>th</sup> December**: Teams welcome, lots of fun had at our last quiz night, so bring along a bottle of wine or two (we provide glasses) and have a fun evening. Open from 7pm, start at 7:30pm.

We have a treat for the families and children as our **Christmas Children's Craft Event** on **14<sup>th</sup> December** promises to be better than ever.

Come along to do lots of Christmas crafts, and come to meet **Father Christmas**.

You are welcome to join in local history group, last Monday of the month, Coffee and Chat on Tuesday mornings, or how about a Yoga Pilates group on Wednesday morning or Thursday evening? There's spinning on Tuesday evening, U3A on a Thursday morning, or visit our extensive library.

We are proud of our well provided library, newly renovated, please visit and help yourself to a book or three, all our books have been donated, and are free to take out. We have more than 3000 books, alphabetically sorted (by author) and just waiting to be read. Autobiographies, serious, classical, crime, travel, children's books, and so many more to choose from. Call in whenever the hall is open. You are welcome to browse our bookshelves and take as many as you wish, no records are kept, so bring along books you have read and find new books to take.

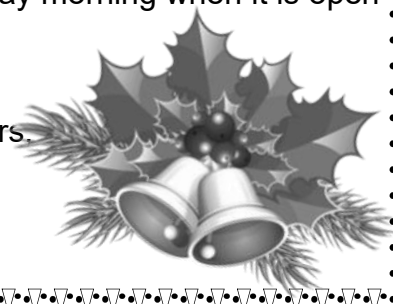
Our coffee and Chat on Tuesday mornings are enjoyed by many, making new friends and renewing friendships. A warm welcome is there for anyone.

We have many regular groups that meet now, such as Parkinson's support, St Martins History Group, ballet, and Yoga Move Freely, spinning, U3A, and youth club as well as Parish Council meetings and many more. Our activity room is ideal for children's parties, and the lounge for more sedate parties.

We have a large group of volunteers to help at all times, but welcome anyone who has spare time, or wishes to meet new people.

Please pop in as you pass to pick up a book or 2, or look in on a Tuesday morning when it is open to anyone wanting a snack or drink.

A very **Happy Christmas** to all our regular visitors.  
and  
**Happy New Year** to all.



## NEW YEAR, NEW HOBBY....

Are you thinking of taking up a new hobby? Why not consider Bell Ringing? We have a small, friendly band of ringers and are looking to increase our numbers. We meet at St Martins Parish Church each Wednesday evening from 7:00pm-8:30pm for practice and we also ring between 9:00am and 9.30am every Sunday before the service; as well as all manner of church occasions, from weddings to special services for Christmas and other holidays.

Bell ringing is suitable for all ages and abilities. The Tower Captain, Dai Cartwright, can be contacted on:

Telephone 01691 778215

Mobile: 07964 161397

Email: [dai.t59@icloud.com](mailto:dai.t59@icloud.com)

Dai will be able to answer any questions or provide further information. Why not come along for a trial to see how much fun it is. We look forward to seeing you!

### Quiz of the Month

How many can you answer? All answers on page 37

1. The word purl is used in which handicraft?
2. What type of insect is a Speckled Wood?
3. What year did Nicola Sturgeon become Scotland's first minister?
4. In Greek mythology which musical instrument did Hermes invent?
5. What colour cards does a hockey umpire carry?
6. Who directed the 2008 film Slumdog Millionaire?
7. What variety of fruit is a cantaloupe?
8. What is the collective noun for a group of women?
9. Who was Britain's first female Prime Minister?
10. Which town in Oxfordshire was famous for making blankets?



# North Shropshire Transport Doggy Gift Give Away!

Please could you help us with a idea we have at North Shropshire transport .

This Christmas we would like to reward the courteous and considerate dog walkers that use Colliery Road to exercise their dogs. With your help we would like to give away 10 luxury doggy stockings / pet selection boxes.

All you would need to do is send a photo text or photo email along with their contact details to the Village Life Magazine. A photo of their dog standing next to our large tyre snow men which will be situated at the entrance of the old Stock Yard which is at the end of Colliery Road. The tyre snowmen will be on display all of December .

We at North Shropshire Transport (a local family run business) would like to thank all responsible dog walkers for keeping our idyllic countryside Free from litter and dog mess. With your Assistance I would like the dog walkers to send to us via email **walters2355@msn.com** a photo of there dog next to our snowman and the dogs will be featured in January's issue !!!!!

The competition closes on the 20th of December and the first 10 lucky dogs that are pulled out from the HAT will receive there prize before Santa comes down the chimney on the 24th.

10 doggy selection boxes and any other expense will be funded by North Shropshire Transport management team.

Many thanks Nigel & Kay Walters

07957729771



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STORE OPENING TIMES: MONDAY- SATURDAY 6:30AM-9PM

SUNDAY 8AM-8PM





# Speed

Speed Surveys were completed in St Martins, Whittington and Weston Rhyn on Tuesday 5th November 2024. Each location was visited for an hour each with both directions on the road monitored.

Overton Road, St Martins, saw an average speed of 23mph and 25mph in a 30mph limit.

B5009, Whittington, saw an average of 34mph and 32mph in the 40mph limit.

Station Road, Weston Rhyn, saw an average of 27mph and 26mph in a 30mph limit.

A small number of vehicles were recorded doing excess speed and will be hearing from the Rural North team in the near future.

Surveys and enforcement will continue to take place across the Rural North areas at different locations and times where permitted as these work towards the set Parish Council Priorities.



For any 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.

**Oswestry Rural North  
Safer Neighbourhoods Team**

**PCSO Dave Hughes – 07870 219190**

**PCSO Pete Roberts – 07870 219019**

**PC Michael Hogg - 07870156668**

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)

**To report a crime please dial 101 or in an  
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**NHS England Pharmacy First Service**

Our skilled pharmacists can now provide prescription medication for the following seven common conditions, if needed, without the need to see a GP.

(NHS prescription charge rules apply where a medicine is supplied)

|                                         |                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Earache</b> (1-17 years)             | <b>Sinusitis</b> (12+ years)                                        |
| <b>Impetigo</b> (1+ years)              | <b>Sore throat</b> (5+ years)                                       |
| <b>Infected insect bites</b> (1+ years) | <b>Uncomplicated urinary tract infections</b> (women 16 - 64 years) |
| <b>Shingles</b> (18+ years)             |                                                                     |

**Book an appointment today.**

Tel: 01691 778873 Email: [pharmacy.FVG38@nhs.net](mailto:pharmacy.FVG38@nhs.net)

# The Moors Chapel

1829 to 12 January 2025

As you can see the Moors Chapel nearly made it to 200 years old. The present chapel was rebuilt in 1870 in Stone. The first chapel was built in wood on a stone foundation. It burnt down. It was supported by the canal workers and the miners.



It's most vibrant time, for those who are still alive, was up to the mid-1980s. Everyone has fond memories of the community in Moors Lane centred around the chapel. Here are some – The wood stove in the centre of the far wall of the chapel; the small dais in the front far side corner, even standing there and reciting. The carnivals and processions; the Sunday school outings, the swimming. Once the Hall arrived there were many gatherings and teas and some remember the discos. There were camping trips to Shell Island and to Llanrhaeadr, in the field by the waterfall.

There were 2 services every Sunday with Sunday School in the afternoon. The chapel was packed on all occasions. There were various meetings during the week: guilds, prayer meetings, bible studies, and Thursday Night Ladies. The latter only finishing just before Covid.

These are a few of the memories and they may have sparked a few more.

Over the years the Chapel held many events and with the support of St. Martins village and the surrounding area raised thousands of pounds for charities, as well as many fun social times together. Gradually since then and especially since COVID the number of services and social, charity fundraising has decreased. There are many, many reasons for this. It is sad for the whole area that it is now time to close the chapel. So many people cannot believe it is closing, but it has become a necessity. The chapel members will grieve its loss, but we will find new openings in our faith journey.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

We are very grateful.

God Bless St. Martins and especially those in the Moors Lane.





## FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS

So this is Winter. We are approaching a Happy New Year, and Summer is a distant memory, but yet it is also our future, with thoughts and dreams of warm blue sky days to come!

Throughout last summer, April to the end of September we undertook our weekly butterfly count and although the numbers of different butterfly species and the numbers of butterflies observed were reduced on previous year counts, we still had a good showing. It seems that when we had that cold wet spell in the early spring; April and May, it affected the early emerging butterfly cohorts and they never really managed to catch up. Yet we saw Speckled Woods in the woodland edge areas, Gatekeepers were eventually abundant in the birch field, and we saw more than usual in the old horse paddock/event field near the entrance. Both Ringlet and Meadow Brown numbers were down but not devastatingly so. Also observed were Small Copper, Common Blue, Green Veined White, Comma, Small Skipper, Small Heath and Peacock butterflies. But it appears an absence of Painted Lady, apparently, they stayed on the continent (could this be an effect of Brexit? LOL)

It is now Winter and we are a few short weeks from the Winter Solstice, the shortest day. The Winter Solstice occurs on Saturday 21 December at 9:19am this year in the UK, after the daylight hours start to become more than the darkness hours and the sap in the trees and grasses start again to rise, Hooray! But we are still in that nature dormancy, the leaves have been dehisced from the trees and shrubs and are forming a protective layer over ground and soil level flora and fauna. The natural world across the northern hemisphere of spaceship earth is largely asleep, deep hibernation for some and for other extended periods of sleep, a quiet time. When you walk the reserve, remember, for plants and animals are sleeping and need their rest. At this time of year, it is nice to stand/sit (if not too damp) and listen to a more silent landscape. And if you have a stethoscope with you, why not press it to the ground or to the boles of trees and listen, you might hear some gentle snoring of small mammals, beetles and of the trees themselves, so dig out your "Doctors and Nurses" play sets and have a go.

As we move into January, we will begin to see the emerging shoots of the snowdrops (January to March) and then their beautiful white and green tinged flowers. Pryces Dingle is always a good visit during this time of year, and we know that spring is just around the corner. Work on the Meadows: regular visitors will have noticed the ditching work and crossing points that have appeared that Shropshire Council Outdoor Partnership Team applied for and was successful for a grant from UK Government via UK Shared Prosperity Fund. (Full details on the notice board at the main entrance). Ed and Mike (warden) engaged contractors to do around the mound, hopefully this will provide drier access to the green footpaths from the main track, less of that sticky mud!.

The Meadows Volunteers have been busy in November reducing the numbers of Birch tree saplings from the top of the Skylark Mound. We do this so that we do not lose the open space on top of the mound where the Skylarks like to nest, they do not like to have potential predator perching points. We will continue to do this work into January, but hopefully will also have a go at a bit of Hazel Coppicing on the footpath below the mound. We need to check to see if there is anything that still needs to be done to the drainage in the Dingle to help keep the footpaths drier. But please stay off the mound towards the end of January onwards because the Skylarks will be returning and looking to build their nests.

We wish you a happy Solstice and Christmas and New Year and many enjoyable winter walks around the Ifton Meadows Local Nature Reserve.

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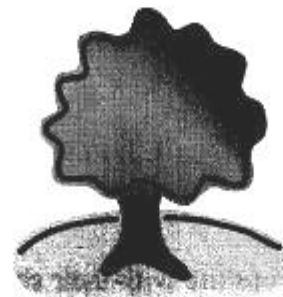
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# What's on in December 2024!

|                       |                                                                              |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tues 3rd              | <b>WI</b><br>Annual Christmas Dinner                                         | -                           | -                                |
| Wed 4th               | <b>Hearing Loss Support Hubs</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month | Oswestry Library            | Booking required<br>01743 342168 |
| Sat 7th               | <b>Quiz Night</b>                                                            | St Martins Village Hall     | 7:30pm                           |
| Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Rainbows, Brownies &amp; Guides Carol Service</b>                         | St Martins Methodist Church | 6:00pm                           |
| Wed 11th              | <b>Weston Rhyn &amp; District Gardening Club</b><br>Winter Talk              | Weston Rhyn Institute       | 7:15pm                           |
| Thurs 12th            | <b>St Martins Parish Council</b>                                             | St Martins Village Hall     | 7:00pm                           |
| Sat 14th              | <b>Christmas Event</b>                                                       | St Martins Village Hall     | 11-3pm                           |
| Wed 18th              | <b>"Extravaganza" and staff panto</b>                                        | St Martins School           | 6:30pm                           |
| Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Carols around the tree in Stans</b>                                       | Stans                       | 6:00pm                           |

# What's on in January 2025!

|           |                                                                             |                               |                                  |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Wed 1st   | <b>Hearing Loss Support Hubs</b><br>Usually 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday month | Oswestry Library              | Booking required<br>01743 342168 |
| Tues 7th  | <b>WI</b><br>Graphologist & Forensic Document Examiner                      | Ifton Miners Institute Lounge | 7:30pm                           |
| Wed 8th   | <b>Weston Rhyn &amp; District Gardening Club</b>                            | The Institute Weston Rhyn     | 7:15pm                           |
| Thurs 9th | <b>St Martins Parish Council</b>                                            | St Martins Village Hall       | 7:00pm                           |
| Mon 27th  | <b>St Martins Family and Local History Group</b>                            | St Martins Village Hall       | 7:00pm                           |

Please let us know the time and date of your events in February and March (Please remember this is the Christmas issue) for the next edition of Village Life (free on the 'What's On' pages) by no later than Wednesday 15th January 2025

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



This week we have commemorated Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. On Sunday over 30 of our cadets accompanied Sgt Marina to the memorial service in St Martins. On Monday, primary and secondary students lined the quad to listen to a moving song from our primary choir followed by the "Last Post" played by year 11 student Noah Holmes before the whole school observed a 2 minute silence.



A huge thankyou to all the companies, and organisations that gave up their time to come to our Careers Fair. This event for year 6, 9, 10 and 11 students helps to showcase the fantastic opportunities on our doorstep and further afield. All our visitors commented that the students were engaged, respectful and asking some really good questions about career opportunities. Students will now be encouraged to log into [UNIFROG](#) our careers platform to further think about possible next steps post 16. If parent/carers have any questions about careers please contact our careers lead, Ms Weaver.



## Dates for the diary

**17 December - Christmas Lunch**

**18 December - "Extravaganza" and staff panto 6:30pm**

**19 December - LAST DAY FOR NURSERY**

**20 December - Last day**

**6 January - Back to school**





Thank you to everyone who supported Children In Need - the school raised just under £300. Here's a fantastic photo of Miss Sayer's class having Pudsey fun.

In Morpurgo class they had fun with a Pudsey themed maths code breaker challenge today!

They were all tricky word problems based on addition and subtraction. Well done everyone!!



This is your chance to showcase your artistic talents.

We are on the lookout for the most creative and imaginative designs that capture the spirit of the holiday season

**Christmas Card Competition**

This competition is open to all students across the school

Submit your entries to Miss Price, Art Teacher, by Monday, 9th December.

The winning designs will be officially printed in a card pack!

The poster features two snow globes on either side of a central illustration. The illustration shows a Santa Claus figure sitting on a bench between two snowmen. The background is decorated with snowflakes and a string of lights. The text is arranged around the illustration, providing details about the competition.

### Christmas Performances—Primary

**Tuesday 10 Dec**— 2.15pm for 2.30pm KS2 performance for Year 3 & 4 parents/carers

**Wednesday 11 Dec** - 2.15pm for 2.30pm KS2 performance for Year 5 & 6 parents/carers

**Thursday 12 Dec**—2.15pm for 2.30pm KS1 performance for KS1 parents/carers

**Friday 13 Dec**— 9.15am for 9.30pm Nursery and Reception Performance

Arts Centre. 2 tickets per family. Further information soon! Which will be sent out nearer the time

### 'Peter Pan' at the William Aston Hall, Wrexham University on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Years 1 – 4

The coaches will leave school at 9:00am and be back before the usual end of day. All children will need a packed lunch (please no glass bottles or fizzy drinks). If your child is in receipt of free school meals and would like a school packed lunch please contact reception and say whether your child would like a ham or a cheese sandwich. The children will need to be dressed in school uniform.

The cost of the trip is £14, which you'll find on parent pay. Please note that the cost is non-refundable if your child does not attend on the day, as tickets will have been purchased in advance.

### 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Chester Storyhouse on Wednesday 18th December 2024 – Year 5 and 6

The coach will leave school at 12.30 and be back at around 17.00 (depending on the traffic), you will be informed via email if there is a delay. They will have lunch before they go. The children will need to be dressed in school uniform for the trip.

The cost of the trip is £16, which you'll find on parent pay. Please note that the cost is non refundable if your child does not attend on the day, as tickets will have been purchased in advance.



## **St Martins Flower and Vegetable Show Donations 2024**

The Flower and Vegetable Show took place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August in the St Martins Miners institute.

Revenue streams from the raffle, BBQ and entries allowed the show to make a small profit which is due to the generous donors from local businesses in the area who kindly donated raffle prizes, seeds, compost and materials to allow the committee to build an outdoor planting area for St Martins School and also assist in the Rainbows outdoor planting area.

As the theme for this year's show was "The village Youth", The committee decided that a proportion of the profit would be donated to the village youth clubs. To this end, on 16<sup>th</sup> September a £50 donation was made to each of the following youth groups in the village: Rainbows, Brownies, Scouts, Guides and the Youth Club.

It is provisionally planned to organise next year's show similar to this year. If anyone has any constructive comments or ideas on how to improve the show or to enhance the attendance, please contact Paul Gurnett via email: [pgurnett@btinternet.com](mailto:pgurnett@btinternet.com)

The committee would like to thank the Miners Institute for hosting the event and all of our sponsors that kindly and generously donated raffle prizes for the show. Also, to local businesses that donated seeds, compost, BBQ Gas, Gazebos and food for our BBQ. Finally, thank you to Hayley Davies from Curteis who kindly presented the prizes.

The committee:

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Paul Gurnett:   | Chair                |
| David Hibbert   | Deputy/<br>Secretary |
| Shirley Willis  | Member               |
| Reece Salisbury | Member               |
| Dona Salisbury  | Member               |
| Gwyn Davies     | Member               |
| Heather Lloyd   | Invitee              |



# Chirk Hospital



The fabulous Carers at the Chirk Hospital have been raising funds for the little extras to support their patients again. Stans were one of the major benefactors and was thanked by the team at the drawing of the winners.

Natalie Lippitt (Sister) said:

“These kind of days really give the patients a lift and the smiles on their faces give us a lift”.

Terry Ellis (Pictured Left with Karen Gill) went into help with the day. He had a lovely couple of hours and would be happy to do it again.

Karen Gill .

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Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> - CPR training

Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> - end of term party!

Friday January 10<sup>th</sup> - first meeting of 2025

*It's much more than just pool and table football at Youthie.*

*We are a space for young people to socialise and have fun, as well as being a place to discuss difficult topics and "open up" if there is the need to.*

*It may look like pool, table football or whatever other activity we're offering that day, but these are the tools to create the safe space our young people need.*

Watch our Facebook page: [STMartinsYOUTHCLUB](#) for details.

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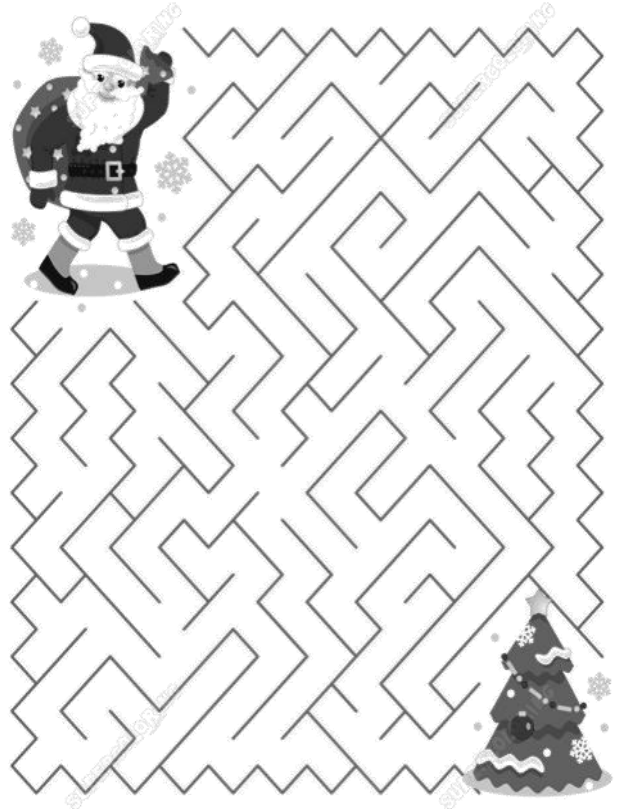
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# SUDOKU

Help Santa to find his way to the tree

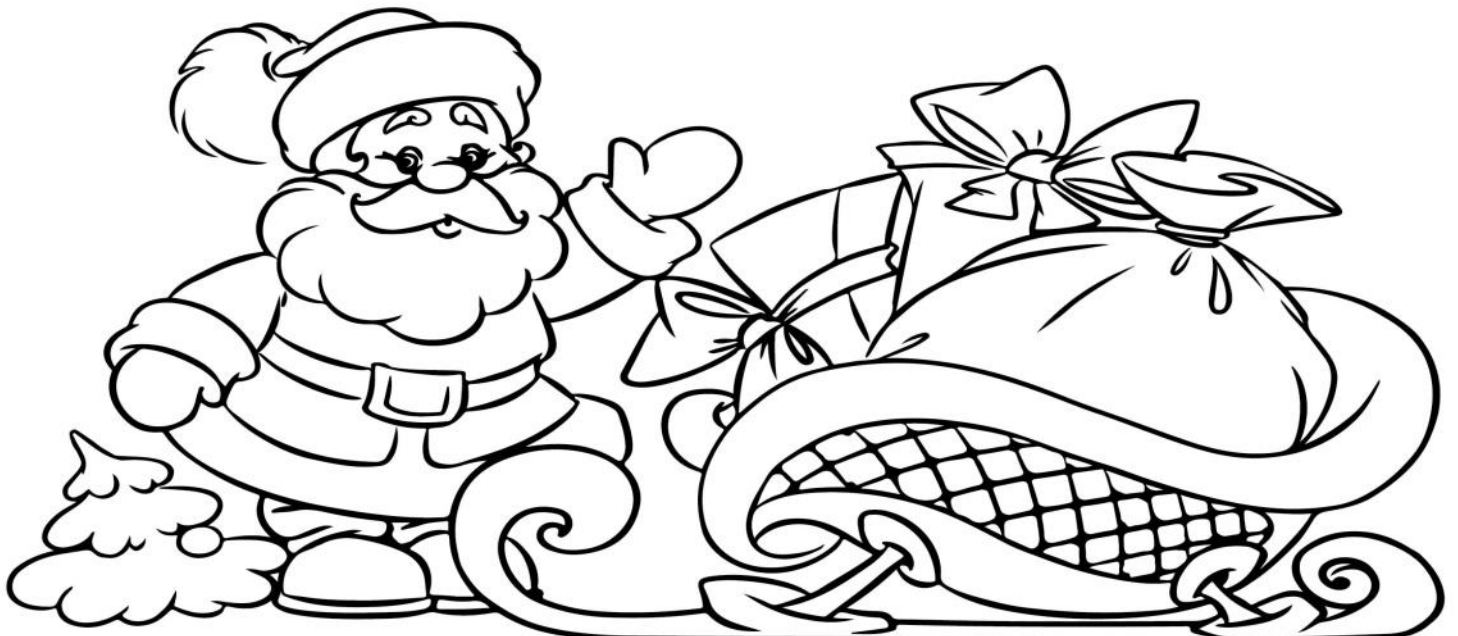
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 |   | 1 | 2 | 9 |   |   | 7 | 5 |
| 2 |   |   | 3 |   |   | 8 |   |   |
|   | 7 |   |   | 8 |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   |   | 1 |   | 3 |   | 6 | 2 |
| 1 |   | 5 |   |   |   | 4 |   | 3 |
| 7 | 3 |   | 6 |   | 8 |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 3 |   |
|   |   | 7 |   |   | 1 |   |   | 4 |
| 8 | 9 |   |   | 6 | 5 | 1 |   | 7 |



Here's a picture for you to colour.

Image printed on www.supercoloring.com - for personal use only - reproduction is prohibited

# Merry Christmas



# WINTER WORD SEARCH



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | E | A | T | H | E | R | W | G | S | F | P | S | F | M |
| O | H | J | V | O | L | J | O | N | J | V | H | N | J | J |
| K | F | R | A | C | S | M | E | O | K | O | L | O | M | G |
| D | R | H | B | P | T | T | D | P | V | B | P | W | W | N |
| I | E | L | J | Q | T | O | I | E | L | J | Q | F | O | I |
| W | E | P | N | I | W | K | L | I | P | N | S | L | K | T |
| S | Z | Q | M | W | Q | D | S | D | Q | M | F | A | D | A |
| N | I | A | K | S | B | I | U | W | A | K | F | K | I | K |
| A | N | S | L | I | D | E | I | S | S | L | U | E | W | S |
| M | G | W | J | C | D | L | L | A | W | J | M | D | S | W |
| W | W | X | I | D | S | N | O | W | X | I | R | B | U | X |
| O | C | C | U | F | D | D | P | C | C | U | A | D | D | C |
| N | V | D | O | M | G | G | N | I | D | D | E | L | S | D |
| S | B | E | P | I | C | C | R | E | T | N | I | W | C | E |
| F | S | L | I | P | P | E | R | Y | R | T | A | H | H | R |

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- |            |              |              |              |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Snow    | 5. Shovel    | 9. Slippery  | 13. Scarf    |
| 2. Snowman | 6. Cold      | 10. Slide    | 14. Hat      |
| 3. Winter  | 7. Freezing  | 11. Sledding | 15. Earmuffs |
| 4. Weather | 8. Snowflake | 12. Skating  | 16. Mittens  |

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## SoBS OSWESTRY

A hand holding a leaflet for SoBS Oswestry. The leaflet features the SoBS logo (a stylized 'S' with hands) and the text: 'Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide', 'Support after Suicide', 'Help and support is available', 'Your nearest support group is SoBS Oswestry', 'Call us on 07930 633 388 or email [oswestry@uksobs.org](mailto:oswestry@uksobs.org)', 'The group meets on a monthly basis', and 'www.uksobs.org'. It also includes social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and the text 'search SOBSCharity'. At the bottom, it says 'Registered in England and Wales Charity No. 1059893' and 'Approved in Scotland Charity No. SC036411'.

**Support for adults  
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# Free Help to Get Online for

## Shropshire Residents

Do you feel a little lost using technology? Need help using the internet? Do you feel nervous about using a computer or frustrated about being left behind as everything seems to be online these days?

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Shropshire Council is supporting residents to learn to use technology safely through The Digital Skills Programme. The service has 25 digital hubs across the area for people who need help to use their laptops, mobile phones or tablets. Learning slowly, taking small steps and having the time to practice are keys to success.

The programme is delivered by experienced, friendly digital volunteers based within Shropshire Libraries and local community organisations. Free data and devices are available for those in greatest need.

“I felt left behind and knew I needed to do something to bring myself up to date,” said Peter, who has benefitted from the programme. “My digital volunteer was so knowledgeable and patient. His kindness helped me to realise that I knew a lot more than I thought I did. Getting out of the house each week to learn something new gave me a boost and I thoroughly enjoyed my sessions.”

For more information visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk/computer-skills-for-all](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/computer-skills-for-all) email [Susie.Hancock@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Susie.Hancock@shropshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01743 253958.

### **Shropshire Council funded free digital support is available at:**

North Qube, Oswestry; Oswestry Library; BizEd Projects, Whitchurch; 4 All Foundation, Market Drayton and Cockshutt; Market Drayton Library; G.O.A.L. Wem; Wem Library.

### **Specialist digital support**

Enable: for people receiving support into employment and/or training

Taking Part: for people with learning difficulties

Sight Loss Shropshire: for people with visual impairment.





# 2<sup>nd</sup> St Martins Scout Group



The scouts and cubs are having a busy term, with cubs enjoying a mix of first aid, road safety and Halloween fun including an overnight camp, and the scouts out and about practising night navigation, shooting, climbing and wide games. They also took part in JoTi 2024, and as part of this they have been in touch with scouts/cubs from Portugal, France, Germany, Canada, Indonesia and South Korea. They took part in a challenge involving building a tower set by a scout from Sweden on a Skype call! The young people did the Group proud on Remembrance Sunday, parading through the village. Now they are looking forward to some Christmas activities.



Why don't you think about joining us and finding out for yourself how much fun it can be? We meet at the scout hut from 6-7.15 (cubs) and 7.30 – 9 (scouts) on Thursdays. Just turn up, or for more info, please contact Dave Cripps on [2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com](mailto:2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com)

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

With a couple of leaders having to step down following changes of job etc, we are urgently looking for more adult support. Full training provided, and lots of support from the current leaders.

Please get in touch if you think you can help: [2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com](mailto:2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com)

## **GOT ANY EMPTY/UNWANTED INKJET PRINTER CARTRIDGES?**

Thank you to people who have been dropping off used ink cartridges, we are very grateful as it helps raise vital funds for the group. Just drop off in the box located near the foodbank collection point in Stans Supermarket in St Martins (sorry, we cannot take laser or toner cartridges).

## Age UK St Martins Day Centre at Cedar Close



The holiday season is upon us and we have a whole month's worth of seasonal activities planned for December. The clients will be treated to John playing the keyboard, a Christmas story read by the author herself and a Christmas sing along, as well as craft activities like bottle lights and card making. And then to culminate the festive activities, we have our Christmas dinner where we invite a friend or family member for each client to come in for a free Christmas lunch from Stans as our thank you to all the dedicated, hardworking carers. Val Brown, who founded the St Martins Day Centre some 20 years ago, devoted her life not only to caring for the elderly and vulnerable, but also to caring for the carers. She has taught us to not lose sight of their daily sacrifices and never ending devotion.

So this holiday season, light a candle, ring a bell, say a prayer for the unsung heroes, the carers.

The Day Centre is open on Tuesdays every week from 10am till 2pm at the Cedar Close Community Centre in St Martins, near the St Martins Parish Church. We provide older people with both practical assistance and a chance to socialise and have plenty of fun, while providing a day of respite for their carers. We offer lots of activities, including games, seated exercises, crafts, bingo, dominos, seated bocce, as well as a two-course hot meal from Stans. Transportation is free, and the carer can come for free if they wish. Come in for a day and meet the group and join the fun. You get a lot for the cost of only £15 per day.

For more information, please contact Marilyn at 07769 915201 or Dee at 01691 777842 or [deannbarnhart@gmail.com](mailto:deannbarnhart@gmail.com) or through Facebook. Or message us or follow us on FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/AgeUKStMartinsDayCentre>

Dee (DeAnn Barnhart)  
St Martins Day Centre  
at Cedar Close



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**Thursdays 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Whittington Community Hall**

**Thursdays 8 pm - 9 pm**

**Or On Zoom**

**Tuesdays 9:30 am - 10:30 am**

**Wednesdays 6 pm - 7 pm**

**Thursdays 9:30 am - 10:30 am**

**Want more info: contact Wendy Arthan**

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# REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

## 2024

Sunday 10th November 2024, a quiet day as far as the weather was concerned, cold but bright and most of all dry.

There were well over 250 people there this year, I think all will agree that it was a very good turn out for a village.

It great to see the Rainbows and Cubs, a small contingent this year but all members of the troupes were in attendance.

The large contingent of the St Martins Schools Combined Cadet Force marching down the road was a sight to be seen, the young people were a joy to be hold.

There were 7 wreaths laid. Richard Evans began with the Wreath on behalf of the community followed by Cllr George Smith on behalf of the Parish Council. Others were WI, Guides, Scouts, St Martins School and Mr Peter Faulks laid one on behalf of Stan's Superstore. They are all now attached to the railings in front of the War Memorial and will remain there until after VJ day in June.

Thank You to all who attended to remember the kin who had given the ultimate sacrifice so we may live in freedom.



# Christmas Sights

See the red stockings hanging in a row  
Over the fireplace in an orange glow

Look, the tree is full of decorations  
Try the eggnog, it's a sweet temptation

The carolers are singing down the avenue  
They'll sing "Jingle Bells" for you

Christmas Eve is ending with good cheer  
That means Christmas Day is near

Boxes will be opened by eager girls and boys  
Books and puzzles and sweaters and toys

Gift wrap will be scattered everywhere  
But just for one day, nobody will care

See the red stockings, now the mantel's clear  
They're packed in a box to be used again next year



## ANSWERS to Quiz on page 14

1. Knitting
2. Butterfly
3. 2014
4. Lyre
5. Red (early bath) Yellow (off for 10mins) Green (off for 5 mins)
6. Danny Boyle
7. Melon
8. A Gaggle (the same as Geese)
9. Margaret Hilda Thatcher
10. Witney

## MEADOWBROOK CHRISTMAS FETE

Lesley Roberts and the staff at Meadowbrook wish to say a Big Thank You to all who donated the 40+ raffle prizes at their annual Christmas Fare on Saturday 16th November. It took some doing to pull out all the winning tickets and many of them had gone home so they were telephoned, what a joy to say "You've won".

There were Turkey and Pork baps, Mince Pies, Welsh Cakes ETC - you could have had a feast there.

They raised £880 in 2 hours.

**WELL DONE ALL**



# Composting at Home: A Beginner's Guide

Composting is a fantastic way to reduce your household waste, and it's easier than you might think! By turning your kitchen and garden waste into nutrient-rich compost, you can feed your garden and do your bit for the environment. Here's how to get started:

## 1. Choose Your Composter:

- **Plastic Compost Bin:** Ideal for small gardens, these bins are compact and efficient. Look for one with a lid to keep out rain and pests.



- **Wooden Compost Bin:** Offers a more natural look and can be built at home. Or DIY with pallets.

- **Wormery:** Uses worms to break down food waste, perfect for those with limited space.



## 2. Find the Right Spot:

- Place your composter on bare soil in a sunny or partially shaded spot.
- Ensure easy access for adding materials and removing compost.

## 3. What to Compost:

- Greens (Nitrogen-rich)
- Vegetable and fruit peelings
- Grass cuttings
- Dead flowers
- Coffee grounds and tea bags
- Plant cuttings

- Browns (Carbon-rich):
- Cardboard (shredded) & toilet roll tubes
- Shredded paper
- Dry leaves
- Woody prunings hedge cuttings & wood chips
- Straw, hay & sawdust

#### 4. Layering Your Compost:

- Aim for a roughly equal mix of greens and browns.
- Alternate layers of green and brown materials.
- Keep the compost moist but not soggy.

#### 5. Turning and Aerating:

- Turn the compost every few weeks with a garden fork to aerate it.
- This helps speed up the composting process.

#### 6. Be Patient:

- It takes time for compost to mature, usually between 6 months to a year.
- The finished compost will be dark brown and crumbly with an earthy smell.

#### 7. Troubleshooting:

- **Compost too wet:** Add more brown materials or turn more frequently.
- **Compost too dry:** Add water or green materials.
- **Unpleasant smells:** Turn the compost more often and ensure a good balance of greens and browns.

#### Extra Tips for Success:

- Chop up larger materials to speed up decomposition.
- Don't add cooked food, meat, dairy, or pet waste to your compost bin.
- Consider adding compost activators to kickstart the process e.g. nettles, comfrey, peas, beans. coffee grounds, tea leaves and cooking oil.



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# Ercall Development FC 1

# St. Martins FC 8



St. Martins FC started this match with positivity, exemplified in the opening minutes by an impressive direct run and shot from Ryan Davis. Ercall provided a sound positive counter response reducing the opposition scoring to one impressive long shot by Zach Harrigan providing a worthy one goal lead for Saints at half-time.

The Saints 'Player Manager' Daryl Davis fought hard to dominate control of the mid-field and was rewarded by his fellow-players taking control of the match, however they didn't manage to score again before half time in spite of several chances.

A reality identified by an excellent swift shot by Zakh Harrigan which sailed inches close to the opposition goal post leaving a one goal lead at half-time.

Daryl Davis's example was epitomised by his team-mates as they gradually took control in the second half, a fact realised by the subsequent concluding result, and impressive performance epitomised by another 3 goals scored by "Man of the Match" Zakh Harrigan, who concluded his match by scoring an impressive 4th goal achieved alongside well-taken goals scored by Brian Wood, Panashe Kunyachi, Jordan Bernard and Cristopher Costin.



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## **OCTOBER**

A busy month for some members of St Martins WI with four members attending Glitz & Glamour, a SFWI event involving a two course lunch, a fashion show (hosted by Teresa's Boutique) short speeches from Rebecca Jones Hats, Skincare BOOtique and Salop Silver, all having stalls with items for sale. The Guest Speaker was Debra Drake who was a finalist on the Great British Sewing Bee and has launched the "Sewing with Style" school in North Wales. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had.

At our October meeting, although few in number, we welcomed Caroline Coulson who entertained us with Laughter Yoga. We had a hilarious evening practising Laughter Yoga techniques which had us Hahaing, Hohoing, HeHawing, clucking like hens, holding conversations in gobbledygook and generally transfixed with laughter.

On 22 October St Martins WI hosted the Oswestry North Group of WI's Group Meeting, the speaker was Mel Latham demonstrating Preserves which she also sells for The Stroke Association, an excellent evening.

## **NOVEMBER**

Our AGM was held on 5 November at which our President was stepping down after three years in office. Ann was proposed, seconded and voted unanimously as Present with a further eight members voted onto the Committee. We then played some eight hands of Blind Whist. Who knew members of the WI could be so competitive with this hilarious game of cards being taken seriously? Or maybe not!!!

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

On Monday 2 December St Martins WI will be holding a Carol Service in St Martins Parish Church at 7:00 pm - non WI members very welcome, and on 3 December we will be holding our Annual Christmas Dinner.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Tuesday 7 January when our Speaker will be Susan Ord; a Graphologist & Forensic Document Examiner

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. at The Minters Institute. New members and visitors are all welcome.



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## Useful Numbers

### Hospitals

|                                                |              |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital | 01691 404000 |
| Royal Shrewsbury Hospital                      | 01743 261000 |
| Princess Royal Hospital Telford                | 01952 641222 |
| Shropshire Nuffield                            | 01743 817144 |
| Wrexham Maelor Hospital                        | 01978 291100 |
| Chirk Community Hospital                       | 03000 850003 |
| Spire Yale Wrexham                             | 01978 268035 |
| Oswestry Minor Injuries unit                   | 01691 663617 |

### Doctors' Surgeries

|                      |        |                              |        |
|----------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|
| Chirk Surgery        | 772434 | Chirk Out of Hours:          | 111    |
| Caxton Surgery       | 654646 | Cambrian Surgery             | 652929 |
| Plas Ffynnon         | 655844 | Churchmere/Ellesmere Surgery | 242222 |
| Shropdoc/NHS Direct: | 111    |                              |        |

### Schools:

|                          |              |          |                                                                            |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| St Martins School:       | 01691 776500 | Website: | <a href="http://www.stmartins3-16.org">www.stmartins3-16.org</a>           |
| Lakelands Ellesmere      | 01691 622543 | Website: | <a href="http://www.lakelands-school.co.uk">www.lakelands-school.co.uk</a> |
| Marches Oswestry         | 01691 664400 | Website: | <a href="http://www.marchesschool.co.uk">www.marchesschool.co.uk</a>       |
| North Shropshire College | 01691 688000 | Website: | <a href="http://www.nsc.ac.uk">www.nsc.ac.uk</a>                           |

|                                                        |                   |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>St Martins Parish Church:</b>                       | Rev. Stuart Jermy | 01691 778468 |
| <b>Methodist Chapel Ellesmere Road &amp; The Moors</b> | Rev Julia Skitt   | 07810 360778 |

**Parish Council:** Edward Davies 01743 366420 Email: [clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Shropshire County Council:** 0345 678 9000

**Shropshire County Councillor:** Steve Davenport 07944 097876

**Police:** Emergency: 999 Non-Emergency: 101

PCSO Dave Hughes: 07870 219190

PCSO Pete Roberts 07870 219019

**Citizens Advice Bureau** Oswestry: 0844 4991100

|                                          |                       |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Vets:</b> Blakemere Veterinary Centre | 01691 881991          |
| Castle Veterinary Centre                 | 01691 774202          |
| Border Veterinary Centre                 | 01691 670395          |
| Brownlow Veterinary Centre               | 01691 622152 / 622137 |
| Park Issa Veterinary Hospital            | 01691 670067          |
| Rhyn Park Vets in St Martins             | 01691 778589          |
| Robert Tullock, Market Town Vets         | 01691 897199          |

### Defibrillators can be found at the following locations: **RING 999 FIRST**

- On the front corner of St Martins Village Hall Centre Building Available 24hr  
Lock code required from West Midlands Ambulance Service via 999
- At Ridgway Rentals, phone **770171** Available Mon-Fridays 8am – 6pm  
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- Stan's Superstore phone 772348. Available when store is open.

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Christmas Dinner Menu

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Sunday 10am-3pm

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