

# Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

In the January edition of the magazine I mentioned that the Three Parishes Big Local have a fund which is open to bids from local groups. It has been pointed out to me that grants to support clubs, groups and societies in our own village are also available from St Martins Parish Council!

These grants are part of the annual Parish Council budget and are normally up to £200 per organisation. The timetable for the 2015/16 financial year is as follows:- Applications should be sent to the Parish Clerk (either in writing to St Martins Centre or by email to [edward865davies@btinternet.com](mailto:edward865davies@btinternet.com)) by no later than 30 April.

Decisions on what grants are awarded will be made at the June meeting of the full Parish Council

Application forms are available from the Centre, but note that all applications must be accompanied by the latest full year accounts for the applicant organisation or, if it is a new organisation, by an up to date income and expenditure account. A short statement on the use to which the money would be put and reasons for the application would also improve the chances of success.

The Village Life committee fully supports the use of local funds to support both new and existing local groups, and while we understand that (budget allowing) grant applications can be considered at any time, the best results are likely to be achieved by following the agreed timetable, so don't miss your chance – get an application in now!

Sadly, no entries have been received for an anniversary cover design, so for now we will continue with the current Michael Wade photo of Prices Dingle (which I must confess is my favourite anyway).

John Stevens (Chair of the Editorial Committee)

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**If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication please email it to [smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com) by no later than Friday 15th May 2015**  
.....

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[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 Martin Centre for people with sight impairment.**

# Parish Council

## From the Chair

Hello Community

Have you ever wondered how your Council functions, how decisions are made and indeed what kind of decisions we are asked to make. These are decisions that affect you, from street lighting, planning applications and decisions about green open spaces.

One of the projects we have completed recently is the 'play area' at Churchfields. We believe we have gotten, through consultation with the residents, the best layout and equipment that the children will enjoy using. Work has already begun to install the picnic table, scooter track, swings, fencing etc .



A 3 year lease has been agreed with Stan's Superstore for the Playing Field/Football Pitch and we are now in the process of negotiating the contract for grass/hedge cutting. This is a fairly new cost item for the

Parish Council and with Shropshire Council no longer passing on the Local Council Tax Support Grant, which amounts to over £5000, stretches the Council's budget. We, like many other strands of government, will need to trim costs and, unfortunately, we have had to increase the local council tax by 2.8%. This does not cover the short fall but will go some way to filling the hole.

On the 16th of April 2015 at 7pm, we will be holding the Annual Meeting of the Parish. This meeting is for everyone to come along and hear about what has been happening in the village over the last 12 months. We hope to get a report from the Big Local and the FAIRshare Credit Union. Those who run clubs or groups (or their representatives) will be invited to come and give a short report about their activities and encourage new membership. It is a relaxed affair giving an opportunity for the community to network and show-off what they have accomplished.

You may have seen some activity in the field next to The Keys. At long last, work to build the first 20 open market houses will start in April. The Bower Farm site, which is a social housing development and therefore an exemption site from the local SAMDEV, is moving forward at a pace and the homes should be occupied by the end of the year.



You may have also noticed that the footpath by Rhos-y-lan Farm is in the process of being widened and there are other things to do to make the road safer that will come in time.

Cont.....

The former site of Ifton Heath School is a concern to many and I'm sorry to say that the Parish Council did not know until a week before when the Unitary Councillor reported the interim plan. Shropshire Council (or anyone else) does not need permission for 28 days to park caravans etc. After the Showmen moved in the Council did submit a planning application for an 'up to 12 months' stay (which could be renewed). The plan is for them to occupy a permanent site at Treflach Quarry but there are contamination issues there that will take sometime to rectify.

Do come along on the 16th April. It will be good to see all of you and your presence will encourage clubs and groups, knowing there are other people interested in what they do.

Sue Schofield Chair of St Martins Parish Council

## March Quiz

1. What instrument is associated with a variety of ragtime known as honky-tonk?
2. Which entertainer fell backwards off the stage while singing at the BRIT awards?
3. What is the capital of the U.S. state of Louisiana, its name literally meaning 'red stick' in French?
4. How often is the football World Cup tournament held?
5. Who scored goals in the 2015 FA cup quarter final Man. U v Arsenal?
6. What type of fish is known as a kipper when smoked?
7. In Greek mythology what is the name of the winged horse?
8. Which regiment of the British Army wears a badge of the winged horse?
9. In which liquid is lactose found?
10. Which biscuit, named after an Italian general, is known as 'squashed fly'?



Answers on page 33

# Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

Planning issues dominated discussions at the March meeting of the Parish Council. Councillors made the following comments on two important applications, which are as follows;

App Ref 15/00566/REM:- Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to permission 14/01390/OUT for the erection of 12 no. dwellings on land west of Cottage Lane. St Martins Parish Council strongly objects to this application on the following grounds; enormous number of inaccuracies in application, concern over how this site is increasing in numbers by each submission, dangerous junction onto Ellesmere Road from Cottage Lane which cannot be improved and concern that Shropshire Council's Highway Officers raise no objections to the application, vehicle access from a single track lane, not included in the SAMDev by the parish council and concern that the road disappears into a field at the end of the proposed development which could lead to further development in the future. The Parish Council also objects to the fact that the "road" is described as a Tarmac drive and as such would not be to highway standards - despite the application being for 12 houses. It also has no provision for a street light.

App Ref 15/00537/FUL:- Change of use of part of former school site to provide temporary residential site for single travelling show people family for a period of up to one year at Ifton Heath CP School. St Martins Parish Council are concerned that they were not involved in the proposal to use the land at the former Ifton Heath Primary School as a temporary base for the Stokes travelling fairground and its family. We also object to the erroneous and incomplete information contained in the current planning application and we are concerned that the process followed so far has not included any consultation with local people. Furthermore recent observations of the site show vehicles already parking outside the proposed boundary limit of the application. We want to see the former school site developed for the benefit of the local community, either as a centre for business or the community or both. Approval of this planning application will effectively blight the site for at least a year and – if rapid progress is not made on a permanent site – potentially even longer. *(A more detailed report can be found on the Shropshire Council Planning Website).*

A police officer attended the meeting and reported on results of speed checks in St. Martins in the 30mph zone. 12% of vehicles checked in January exceeded the speed limit while this increased to 24% in February. They will continue carrying out speed enforcement in the village and as the days get longer and they have more light they will have more scope to do this. It is hoped that this information will enable the Parish Council to approach the Road Safety Partnership and see what traffic calming measures can be put in place.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9th April 2015 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Community Centre. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting on the 16th April 2015 also at 7.00pm in St Martins Community Centre. This is a meeting of the Parish electorate and to hear reports from various organisations within the parish. All residents of the Parish are encouraged to attend.

Edward Davies FILCM, St Martins Parish Clerk.

Email; edward865davies@btinternet.com Tel: 01743 366420

## **Current Parish Councillors**

Ashley Allum	01691 770042
Gordon Fryer	01691 774520
Neil Graham	01691 778427
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
Brian Herbert	01691 772647
James Hoos	01691 661218
Alison Kynaston-Jones	01691 777671
Duncan Laing	07702991845
Brian Latham	01691 772890
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
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

Dear All

While we have good things happening in the village the widening of the footpaths to the school, a new sign is on its way to help road calming, new teaching staff in place at the school, improving the educational skills of your children, not to mention super fast Broadband making us one of the lucky ones in the County.

Having said all that, we are being treated poorly by Shropshire Council with regard to planning issues on Cottage Lane and Ifton School. Please be assured I disagree with these issues and I am working to resolve them.

Things are also moving slowly forward with Dart Energy, who are the company planning the coal methane extraction at Dudleston Heath, we are now waiting for a hearing to take place, which is the highest appeal process and hopefully will have a favourable outcome.

Please call or email me if you have any queries on any of these issues.

Tel: 07776 173678 Email: [steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk)

## St Martins Village Life Magazine

### Annual General Meeting

Your magazine has been up and running for almost a year.

In that time, your committee has worked tirelessly to bring you what we feel is a good representation of what is going on in the village and its surrounds.

We have had many favourable comments and compliments saying that the magazine is just what the village needed.

Now is your chance to come along to the Annual General Meeting and see for yourself how we are functioning.

**The AGM will be held on  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 a.m. in St. Martins Centre.  
Everybody is invited to attend.**

The St Martins Centre is offering a new  
**BEGINNERS COURSE IN SPANISH**

starting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April consisting of 8 x 2 hour lessons, Cost just £75  
**5.00pm – 7.00pm.**

Hi Everyone. My name is Gail Capper and I am the Spanish tutor at the St Martins Community Centre. The Centre has successfully played host to a series of Spanish classes since autumn 2012 and with your support hopefully will continue to do so in the future.

There are many reasons for learning Spanish; to support your children with their school studies, a new interest, to meet like- minded people or simply because it's fun and with summer just around the corner there is no better time to begin than the present.

As your minds turn to planning your summer holiday imagine how much fun it would be to order your food and drink in Spanish, to be able to confidently use public transport or to chat with local people on the beach, around the pool or in your hotel.

So why not come along and join us and add a new dimension to this year's summer holiday.

Contact Sue Schofield: 01691 770204

at St Martins Community Centre

for more information.



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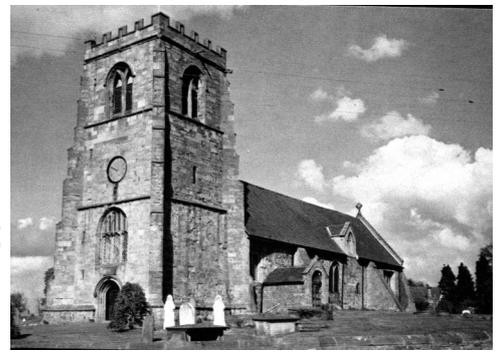
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# St. Martins Parish Church.



## The Benefice of St. Martins and Weston Rhyn.

Contact Revd Stuart Jermy - [sjvicar@btinternet.com](mailto:sjvicar@btinternet.com);  
Tel: 778 468; text 07766 255436

### Easter Services

**Holy week** - readings during Holy Week will be following Christ's last days before his crucifixion.

**Monday 30th** - 9:30am at St. Martins - *Holy Communion*

**Tuesday** - 9:30am at St. Johns Weston Rhyn - *Holy Communion*

**Wednesday** - 9:30am St. Martins - *Holy Communion*

**Maundy Thursday** - 6:30pm - St. Johns Weston Rhyn - *Passover Meal* (remembering the Last Supper - children welcome, food will be served as part of this service so RSVP )

**Good Friday** - *Nails of the Cross* - St. Martins - 2-3pm Readings, music and mediations remembering Christ's last hour on the cross.

**Easter Day** - 5th April - 9:30am - St. Martins - Family communion and afterwards an egg hunt

11:00am Family communion at Weston Rhyn.

### Weekly events:

Tuesday Coffee morning at 10:30 in the church hall

Wednesday 9:30am Mid week communion.

There are various home bible study groups that take place at different times - please ask if interested.

St. Martins and Weston Rhyn Church youth group - Fridays 7:30 at Weston Rhyn church.

### Christenings / Baptisms / Confirmations

**Our Bishop.** the Right Reverend Mark Rylands is coming in June to do a **Confirmation** and Baptism Service with us so if you would like to be confirmed or baptised there is still time to do the preparation and join others for this special day on June 21st.

It doesn't cost anything for a Christening service and can be done during morning worship or in the afternoon.

*It is never too late to get baptised or confirm your own infant baptism. Perhaps God is calling you to do this this year.* Speak to the Vicar if interested.

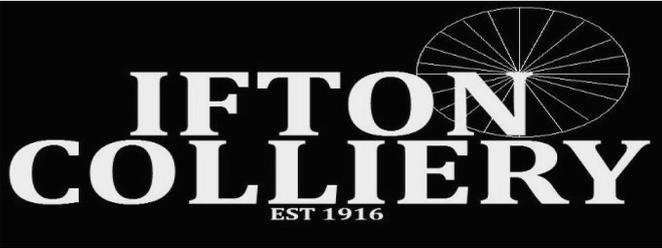
### Weddings

Please contact Revd. Stuart 778 468, if you would like to get married. Lots of dates available.

If you have questions about the faith, things you want to ask God or just want to learn more about Christianity we are starting **Christianity Explored and Alpha Course** after Easter.

**Church Website:** [www.stmartinsparish.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsparish.co.uk)

Contact Revd Stuart Jermy - [sjvicar@btinternet.com](mailto:sjvicar@btinternet.com); 778 468; text 07766 255436



## Ifton Colliery Band News

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February the band travelled to Burton Borough School in Newport, Telford to perform a concert with the school's concert band and big band. During the concert the band showcased one of our back row cornet players, Lucy Aaron who put down her cornet to pick up the microphone and sang Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit song "With One Look". We also had two further wonderful solo performances from the band's virtuoso soprano player, Rachael King, who played Bring Him Home from Les Miserables and Paul Martin on Flugel who played Concerto de Aranjuez from the hit film Brassed Off.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March the band travelled to Bedworth to take part in the 2015 Midlands Brass Band Championship. After all 18 bands had played they awarded our band 1<sup>st</sup> place. As well as the title of 3<sup>rd</sup> section champions, the band also qualifies for the national brass band championships to be held in September at Cheltenham.

The band is now hard at work preparing for our next concert which is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April in the Ifton Miners Institute, St. Martins.

For the latest news about the band check out our website

[www.iftoncollieryband.co.uk](http://www.iftoncollieryband.co.uk) we are also on facebook and twitter follow @iftoncolliery



### St Martins Allotment Association

#### Vacant Plot

We anticipate having a vacant allotment plot from  
1<sup>st</sup> April.

If you would be interested in renting a plot, and are a resident of  
St Martins, please contact

Tony Hall on 01691 777952 or Val Williamson 01691 770105

# St Martins Circular Walk

A chilly Friday morning in January witnessed members of the Gobowen W.I walking group assembling in Stan's car park for their walk of the year.

Suitably suited and booted we set off for Ifton Meadows Nature Reserve following the very useful map and information leaflet picked up at the St Martins Centre.

Crossing the Nature Reserve we stopped at the circular mosaic trying to identify each group depicted (we failed on some).



Descending to Morlas Brook we met three greyhounds, Wallace, Gromett and Gertrude enjoying a walk with their owner. The lovely old bridge over the brook was just the place for a game of Pooh Sticks as the sun shone briefly and we saw the first Snowdrops along the route.

A slight incline brought us to a narrow road running parallel to Watts Dyke - the Dyke is not really obvious but the map assured us it was there.

Crossing the road west of Bank Top we passed through Escob Mill and climbed the embankment of the old mineral line, from there the path descended into a very swampy area; undeterred we made a slight detour and with varying degrees of success jumped over a stream. This exercise proved that we all had waterproof boots!

A short walk across fields brought us to the canal at Preshenlle Bridge; here a "banana break" was voted and excess mud scraped from boots.

Along the towpath and passing Moors Bridge we turned left and climbed across the field path back to the village via St Martins Church.

We rewarded ourselves with cheese on toast and coffee in Stan's coffee shop and tried not to look too muddy.

We thoroughly enjoyed this varied walk, it's amazing what lovely places we have on our doorstep.





# St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Date 2015	Service	5th April	12th April	19th April	26th April	3rd May	10th May	17th May	24th May	31st May
ST MARTINS CHAPEL	10.00	Service	Rev		Rev			11.00am		
		at	Wilson	AWT	Wilson	Holmes	Walker	at Moors	AWT	Edlington
		Moors								
MOORS CHAPEL	11.00	Rev A Evans	AWT	Holmes	Rev Wilson	Rev Shoreman	AWT	Rev Wilson HC	AWT	10.00am
		HC								at
										St Martin's

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## Food For Thought

We decided to go a little bit further afield this time, so we went to The Boathouse at Chirk Marina for lunch. We wanted to eat of course, but we also wanted to check up on the entertainment on offer as it is said to be very good, especially in high season.

We decided to have a starter each then go for the Special two Meals for £9.50.

My wife chose deep fried brie wedges with salad garnish and cranberry sauce at £4.95. It was a generous portion and well presented. Alas! I did not fair so well. I opted for the creamy garlic mushrooms with cheddar cheese topping again at £4.95. It was tasty and hot but I doubt it had two mushrooms in it, but they were thinly sliced so I couldn't count them. Definitely not value for money.

For the main course my wife chose Cumberland Sausages with onion gravy and creamed potato which she said was very good and again nice and hot. I went for the home-made Steak and Mushroom pie with peas and chips. It was home-made and again very tasty and hot. It is interesting to note that there were more mushrooms in the pie than in the starter. We did our usual and had a pudding between us, cheese cake (bought in I think) and ice cream.

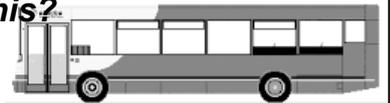
With a couple of pints and a glass of wine the bill was less than £32.00 so quite a cheap outing.

Would we go again? Yes but I'd have a different starter.

The Village Life Foodsmith.

***Here is a letter received by Village Life, how many can identify with this?***

Dear Village Life,



First of all let me thank you so much for the magazine, I really look forward to reading all the village news. I am not a person who likes complaining, but I see you ask about the Arriva Bus Service. I think we are very fortunate to have a good bus service, but several times I have had to wait up to twenty minutes for one and as I am very elderly and cannot stand long it's no joke.

Also we have no shelter in Oak Drive opposite the Service Garage we all get soaked when it rains.

The other thing is I have written to them about this and also that they don't drive up to the kerb or lower the step which they are supposed to do, some do others don't. I did receive a letter from Arriva saying they had put a notice up at the garage asking the drivers to make sure that they do it, but it still doesn't happen. Disabled people and people with trolleys or walking aids find it is so dangerous. One day I hurt my back and I think it could mean that other people will be claiming from them if they get hurt.

The problem is that if Arriva made the Bus Timetable every hour it would be fine, like it was before they don't allow the drivers time for pick-ups, traffic hold-ups or traffic lights. They only allow 40 minutes from Ellesmere, it's not the driver's fault and they are working under pressure!

Yours faithfully, Brenda Rogers.



**Monday Night Curry Night 5pm-8pm**

Curry and a pint £8.50

**Tuesday Night Fish Night 5pm-8pm**

Beer Battered Cod, Breaded Plaice, Scampi or Salmon and a pint  
£9.95

**Wednesday Night Steak Night 5pm-8pm**

Rump Steak and a glass of wine of your choice £12.00

**Thursday Night Sizzler Night 5pm-9pm**

Any Sizzler and a pint £10.50

**HAPPY HOUR TIMES MONDAY—FRIDAY**

**2PM-6PM**

Fosters	£2.50	Guinness	£2.70	Real Ales All	£2.50
Carling	£2.50	John Smiths	£2.20		
Carling premier	£2.70	Worthington's	£2.10		
Wrexham Lager	£2.50	Strongbow	£2.70		



# CARE ALARM PENDANTS AND KEY BOXES

My mother, whom many of you knew, didn't want a care alarm or a key box. "They're only for old people," she said. She was over 80!

We insisted she have both. After a fairly short time and two falls she was saying, "They're wonderful. I never said I wouldn't have one!"

The keybox was so useful that it wasn't long before we had one, too. When the children came home late having forgotten their keys we didn't have to wait up for them. Or if we couldn't find our key after we'd been out the keybox was there. Brilliant.

As a CFR getting to a property with the keybox number, passed to us via the care alarm control centre and the ambulance service, makes a huge difference to us and to the patient. We can be at their side helping within moments rather than hanging around outside waiting for the police to arrive to break in – and what a mess that leaves, too!

Those people who wear their alarm pendants all the time will have help very quickly. Imagine falling and having to lie on the floor until someone just happens by. It can be a long wait. Press the button and help will be with you quickly.

Let me ease the concerns.

1. If you set the alarm off by accident it doesn't matter. The care centre checks first by phone before they summon help anyway. Even if we are summoned and discover all is well when we get there we don't mind: it proves the system works for when you need it for real.
2. It won't wear out if you keep the pendant on! You can even keep it on if you go out. It just doesn't work when you are out of range of your base unit.
3. Neither the care alarm nor the keybox is a security risk. Only you and the alarm centre know the number and they will only pass it on to the person you have appointed as your helper, or to the emergency services if necessary. And you can change the number any time you like. You don't even need to remember it yourself.

Care alarms and key boxes can be installed by Age UK or your family can arrange them. If in doubt ask at your doctors' surgery. There may be a charge, of course, but it's not great and it is worth it for peace of mind for you and your family.

P.S. Please don't hide the keybox! It's not necessary and it makes life difficult for us!

Effie CFR RC 1189



# WHAT WAS.....



This is one of the pictures found in the archives at the Centre. None of these pictures have any captions or any other explanations. Does anyone know what this was all about?

If you do please email the details to:- [smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com) or drop a note in the Post Box at the Centre.

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## The Wrekin Housing Trust

The Wrekin Housing Trust are still progressing phase 2 Bower Farm, St Martins. Here the Trust will deliver 19 new homes being; 3 x 1 bed bungalows, 2 x 2 bed bungalows, 8 x 2 bed houses and 6 x 3 bed houses all for Affordable rent.

First handovers are expected late 2015 and anyone interested in a property should ensure that they register their full details at:-

[www.shropshire.homepoint.co.uk](http://www.shropshire.homepoint.co.uk)

Alternatively, a paper copy of the application form can be collected from the St Martins Centre.



# URGENT: Elderly group in appeal for drivers in St Martins and Oswestry

Contact the Elderly, the charity solely dedicated to tackling loneliness and isolation among older people, is urgently appealing for volunteers living in St Martins and Oswestry.

Volunteers will be required to spare just a few hours each month to drive one or two older people to a local tea party - and enjoy a cuppa and a cake themselves!

The charity aims to relieve the acute loneliness of isolated older people, aged 75 and above, who live alone, by organising free monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for small groups within local communities – providing a regular and vital friendship link every month.



Each older guest is collected from their home by a volunteer driver, and taken to a host's home, where they join a small group for tea, chat and companionship. However, the popular group in St Martins is currently at risk of closure due to a lack of volunteers who are able to drive and accompany older guests in the group to and from the gatherings each month.

Contact the Elderly's Wales Volunteer Support Officer, Sian Llewellyn, said: "The charity" is committed to offering a lifeline of friendship to the oldest and loneliest people, but this lifeline is currently under threat in St Martins, due to a real shortage of volunteer drivers in the area.

"Anyone who can spare a couple of hours one Sunday a month, has a driving licence, a car, and a capacity for drinking tea, is eligible! It's not a big commitment, and our volunteers genuinely get as much out of the experience as our older guests, so I'm calling for anyone who is interested in giving something back to their community to please get in touch with me as soon as possible."

Any Oswestry or St Martin resident interested in volunteering for Contact the Elderly as a driver once a month can contact Sian Llewellyn, Wales Volunteer Support Officer, on 01597822351 or by email at [sian.llewellyn@contact-the-elderly.org.uk](mailto:sian.llewellyn@contact-the-elderly.org.uk)

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## ASHGROVE RESIDENTIAL HOME

At last the daffodils are coming out and spring is just around the corner.

In February Ashgrove supported the British Heart Foundation event with residents and staff wearing red as requested - even Beryl, our day care lady - supported it and came in a red outfit. We were then able to send a donation to the Heart Foundation. It was a bonus that Huw from the Advertiser came along to record the day.

In the 27 years at Ashgrove the favourite pudding has always been pancakes and this year was no exception, everyone managing a couple each. The sweet tooth extends to homemade cakes and we are fortunate to have more than one "Mary Berry" of Ashgrove to provide a good variety.

To say goodbye to winter and hello to spring we are looking forward to a musical afternoon with George who is coming to entertain - a good singsong will get us in the mood.

We are now looking forward to the warmer weather that the weathermen are telling us is on its way.

Helen and Brian Case,



The following article was submitted for the January edition of this magazine. Full apologies to Helen and Brian Case and all the residents of Ashgrove for our failure to include it in the last publication.

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## AROUND ASHGROVE

Everyone in Ashgrove enjoyed a happy Christmas, despite a few cold bugs being around. The decorations and trees are now packed away as we look forward to a New Year. We would like to thank all of our visitors for their cards and gifts of biscuits and sweets which are much appreciated.

We enjoyed the Girl Guides entertainment and were able to join in the carol singing and we thank them and their guiders for remembering us. One of our treats before Christmas was a concert by Ifton Colliery Band when they performed in St Martins Church. Rachael compered each item superbly and had us all taking part. The programme was very varied and enjoyable and right on our doorstep. Thanks to Terry Ellis for organizing it and to the Band and Rachael for a job well done - it set the tone for the Christmas Festivities.

We are lucky to have so many facilities in St Martins from which to benefit.

We have a young man called Luke visiting us for a few hours each Saturday as he works towards his Duke of Edinburgh Award and his cheerful presence perks us all up as he goes about his various tasks, his contribution is greatly appreciated. Each week we are also visited by some students from Moreton Hall who bring an element of fun as well as their company which is looked forward to and much talked about afterwards.

Wishing all the readers a happy and healthy 2015 from

Helen and Brian and all at Ashgrove

# Can YOU grow the tallest sunflower?

## A special challenge to all our neighbours!

The Allotment Society is sending out a challenge to everyone who lives in St Martins. Can you grow the tallest sunflower?

We're setting you on your way with free seeds... and there are prizes for four categories.\* No garden? Still at school? No worries – you can still take part.

All you have to do is complete the form below and bring it along to collect your seeds either at St Martins Centre any weekday 10-2pm (except Wednesday) or at the Carrot and Carp allotments 10-12am Saturday April 11.

After that it's just a matter of nurturing your seeds through the St Martins summer.  
.....

The final measurements will be in the week before the Grow it Make it Show it Show which is on Saturday September 12. More details in the next Village Life.

\* Under 11s; under 16s; grown in container; grown in open ground.



-----

Name:.....Date of birth.....

Address.....

.....

Mobile.....Landline.....

# St Martins Centre

Hi All

It's been a dreary and damp winter but spring is on it's way, Crocus and Daffodils are out and cheer us all.

The Community Garden at the Centre has surprises every year, an unseen flower or shrub just pops up almost from no-where. There was a raised flower bed in the garden but the years of wet earth has rotten the wood and it has just collapsed and I'm worried for the other bed, which runs along the path to the front door of the Centre, that has a retaining wall of wood. How much has it rotted on the inside? How much longer will it last? These questions have no answer until someone digs down alongside one of the posts to investigate the situation but sooner or later it will need replacing.

To address these issues I have approached the Princes Trust (Oswestry) who are a group of young people who raise funds to do projects like ours and work to see the job completed. They will possibly only be able to do one of the projects. Either to change the raised bed into an area to put in another picnic table or to build a new retainer wall of brick. Is there any one (or a business) who could help with the other project? Please come and talk to me if you can help in any way.

I am also looking for someone who might have an hour to spare each week to look after the Community Garden. Is this you? Do you have an interest in gardening and don't have enough to do in your own garden? Again please come and tell me what you might be able to do to help out. Sue Schofield

## St Martins Centre

(Charity Reg. No. 1088872)

Overton Road St Martins SY11 3AY.

Tel: 01691 770204 Email: [smartinscentre@mail.com](mailto:smartinscentre@mail.com)

Office Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday 10am till 2pm

*Our aim is to provide a facility which is friendly,  
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**Activity room** is ideal for Children's Parties, Dancing, Keep Fit groups and many more activities.

**Lounge** is carpeted with some soft chairs, ideal for Committee meetings, Club/Society meetings, Coffee Mornings etc.

**Computer Suite** can seat comfortably, 12 people all at their own terminals and is fully equipped with printers, scanner and internet access.

Charge for use of any one room £10 per hour to include use of kitchen.

## What's on in April!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
3rd—6th	Cadbury's Easter Egg Trail (£2.50)	Chirk Castle	10-4pm
Sat 4th	Ifton Colliery Band Concert	Ifton Minors Institute	7:30pm
Sun/Mon 5th/6th	Easter Egg Hunt	Whittington Castle	10-4pm
Tues 7th	WI Creative Folding	Ifton Miners Institute	7.30pm
Thurs 9th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sat 11th	Like Minded	Ifton Miners Institute	8pm
Thurs 16th	Annual Meeting of the Parish	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sun 19th	The House of Blackstar - Living History	Whittington Castle	10-4pm
Wed 29th	Rambling with Rangers	Chirk Castle	1pm

## What's on in May!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
1st—31st	Bluebell Estate Walks	Chirk Castle	10-4pm
2/3/4th	Norman Invasion of the Castle by Norman Re-enactment Group - Historia Normannis	Whittington Castle	10-4pm
Tues 5th	WI Life on the Road	Ifton Miners Institute	7.30pm
Thurs 7th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sat 16th	Big Get Together	St Martins School Sports Hall	12pm-4pm
Sat 16th	Disco and Karoake	Ifton Miners Institute	8pm
Sat 16th	Plant Sale	Weston Rhyn Institute	10:30am
Sun 17th	The House of Blackstar - Living History	Whittington Castle	10-4pm
Wed 20th	Walk with the Gardeners	Chirk Castle	1pm
Sun 31st	Outdoor Shakespeare Production of "As You Like It"	Whittington Castle	10-4pm

Please let us know the time and date of events in June and July for the next edition of Village Life by no later than

**Friday 15th May 2015.**

If you send us an article for the next edition, please bear in mind that it will be delivered in early June, so any events you report on will have happened before then. If you want to mention any upcoming events or activities make sure they are in June and July (or later).



St Martins School

## St Martins School supports Community

Students at St Martins School have had a busy time fundraising this month. Our year 8 students have been looking at the work of charities as part of their curriculum. The students have been encouraged to research various charities, the work they do and the impact they have and to select a charity to fundraise for. So far £600 has been raised to support Ebola, MNDA and Cancer Research.



Comic Relief day was a good excuse to make 'your face funny for money'. The whole school got involved with cake sales and face painting all for Comic Relief. Staff and students gathered in the Arts Centre to face paint each other!



At the time of going to press the amount raised was still being collected.





Chinese New Year was celebrated by the Rainbows with the making of traditional Dragon Chinese foods and chop stick games.



Brownies and Rainbows are taking part in Fun 'n' Flight Day at R A F Cosford. Activities with flight simulator, dressing up and a photo shoot are all part of a fun packed day. If you have daughters that enjoy games, crafts cooking and are aged between 5 and 7yrs and would like to join us in Rainbows Please call Heather on 01691778598.



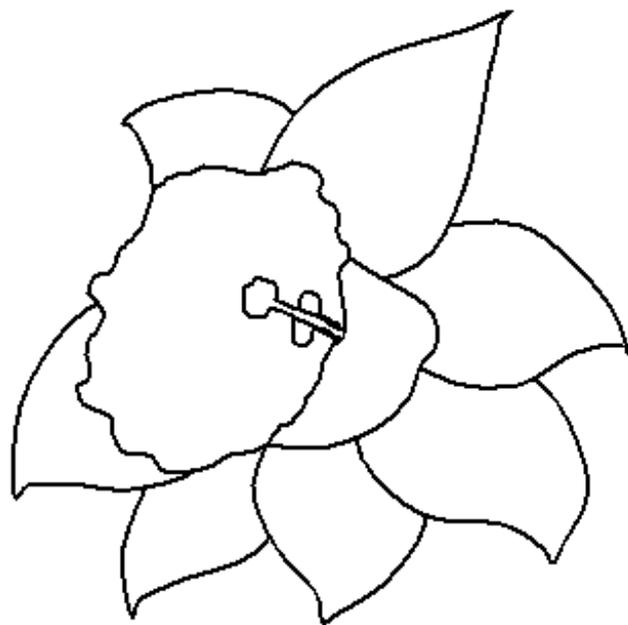
Brownie Animal themed party.

# WORD SEARCH

## Spring Word Search

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

daffodil  
flower  
gardening  
green  
growth  
jacket  
melting  
puddle  
rainbow

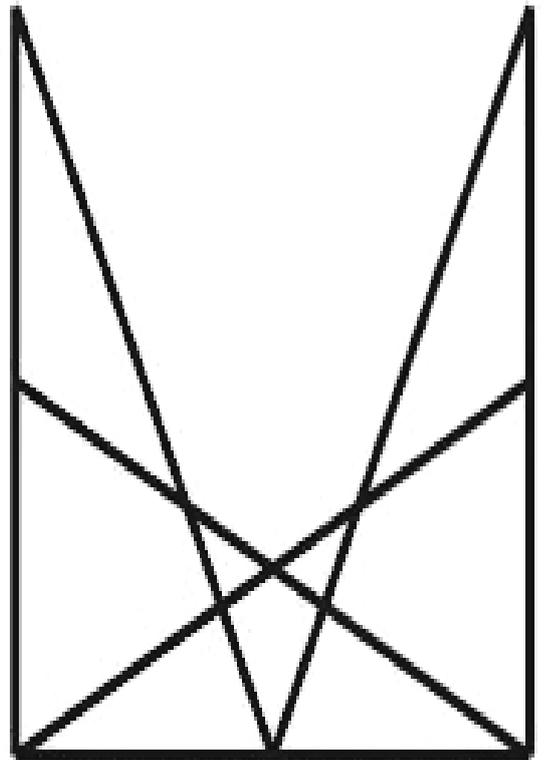


raindrops  
rubberboots  
seeds  
splash  
springtime  
sprout  
sunshine  
tulips  
umbrella

# SUDOKU

How many triangles?

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

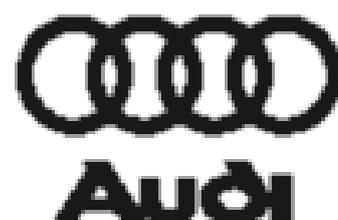


Here's a great picture for you to colour





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# OSWESTRY DISABLED SWIMMING CLUB

## RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital Gobowen

In 1992, two physiotherapists started the Disabled Swimming Club as they felt there was a need for people in the community to benefit from the warmth of the hydrotherapy, which can give relief to painful joints and muscles. It is also very beneficial for muscles strengthening in a non-weight bearing way.

The 'new' pool which opened in 2005 has excellent facilities for people with disabilities, this includes wheelchair users. We have hoists and beds for help with changing. There is access to the water by steps or a ramp where a wheelchair can be used (transfer being made from members' own wheelchair to the pool's wheelchairs). There are volunteers on hand to help with hoists or pushing wheelchairs, etc..



If you think you could benefit from this lovely warm pool, you should contact your GP or a physiotherapist for referral.

The sessions are held every Tuesday afternoon, 2-4pm or 4-6pm and the cost is £2 per session, 45 minutes in the water is advised. Bring your own towel and no jewellery should be worn or perfume used.

For more information, please contact: Gill Cripps on 07691 655137.

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## Magic Pills: Part 3

In the previous two magazines I reflected on how an acquaintance (I hope I can call him a friend now ) thought I must be taking magic pills as he saw me out running early in the morning. It reminded me of the NHS guidance "Five steps to well being" which recommends getting active; connecting with others; **keep learning**; be aware of yourself and the world; give to others.



What better time to focus on step 3 – **keep learning**.

The Village Life magazine is full of events you can attend. Why not learn about the village, natural history, dancing, crafts, gardening, football, Spanish, martial arts or any one of the other subjects available? There's something for everyone but if you can't find what you want, why not talk to Sue in the Centre and see about setting up your own group?

Keep active, connect with others, keep learning - keep **well**

New homes at Bower Farm coming soon!

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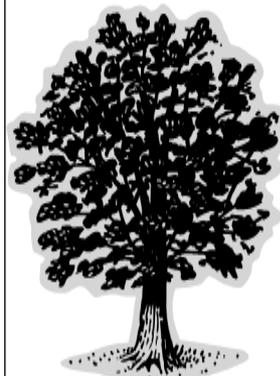
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## Garden Security

As the Spring approaches people will be thinking about getting into the garden and getting the grass cut for the first time this year. Please remember to make sure that you don't leave your mowers or any other garden power tools out overnight. Make sure they are locked away in a secure shed that has 'tamper proof' bolts and a very sturdy padlock and hasp. Remember that it doesn't matter how good the padlock is if the hasp can be cut through with a standard set of bolt croppers.

Keep your garden equipment safe.

For more crime prevention advice please feel free to get in contact with me.

Please report anything suspicious to the police on 101.

Kate Le'Clere, PC 3718

Oswestry Rural North, Safer Neighbourhoods Team

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Supporting St Martins Centre

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Helen and Brian Case  
For further information

# Weston Rhyn Gardener's Club

Kate Nicoll gave a fascinating insight to the 6 year renovation of the walled garden at Attingham Park, showing the Georgian plans of the estate and garden and an 18th century gardener's manual complete with entries showing how much was charged for selling the produce from the garden - 1 shilling for a melon!

The 2 acre garden has been renovated one quarter at a time - the remaining quarter will be returned to a First World War smallholding complete with pigs and chickens, to celebrate the 100 years since the Women's Land Army was formed. Very fitting as all the paid staff working in the present day garden are female! Kate has 70 volunteers helping in the garden, looking after the vegetable beds which provide supplies to the cafe and shop, also flowers for arrangements in the Hall and for sale. This would have happened in Georgian times too.

The walled garden had been a football pitch in the 70s with the dipping pool being filled in and then it was a Christmas tree plantation. The ground was very compacted and along with ploughs, pigs were used to eat the weed roots and break up the soil. The walls needed repairing so the tender fruit trees could be fan trained, making best use of heat retained by the bricks. Ironwork was installed (as shown in 1930s photographs) and espaliered pears planted. In front of the pear trees, there is a flower border, originally planted to keep the gardeners hidden from the lords and ladies as they promenaded around the gardens. The practicality is that the borders are very densely planted so that they need no weeding and the gardeners can concentrate on the fruit and vegetables.

In the Frame Ground, next to the walled garden, the old glass houses have been restored. A volunteer has crocheted nets for the melons - in the past old fishing nets, or more recently bras have been used.

Rainwater is collected off the roofs of the glasshouses and is stored in a 9,000 litre underground tank. There is also an underground root store with bays of sand for celeriac, carrots and parsnips.

The garden is wholly organic and peat free. None of the produce or flowers are wasted - they are either used on the property or sold in the shop. Kate presented a good case for re-visiting Attingham!

April 8th meeting - 'Gardening with Grasses' with Jill Cawthray

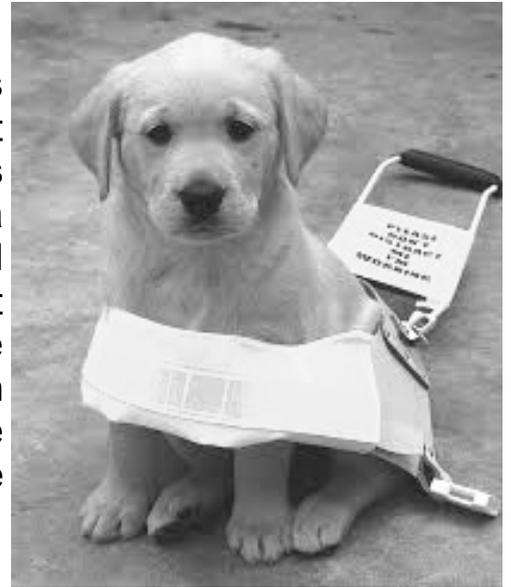


**REMEMBER - ANNUAL PLANT SALE - 16TH MAY AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE INSTITUTE**

## HELP – and this way is easy!

A former member of St Martins Craft Group, Mrs Nellie Miller, is asking for help in raising funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The easy way is by collecting the coloured bottle tops from plastic milk containers and others like orange juice etc. There is a large box in the foyer of the Community Centre for them, and Mrs Miller will take them to the main collection point at the Guide Dogs Association premises in Shrewsbury.

Mrs Miller was a stalwart member of the St Martins Craft Group for a great many years, even after her sight deteriorated to the point of blindness, and the hundreds of items she has knitted will have brought comfort to a great many people over the years. Current Guild members are, however, continuing to knit and crochet items for mainly local charities. Incidentally, did anyone else see the photograph in the Advertiser of 10 March of Mrs Marjory Evison who was for many years the leader and inspiration of the Craft Group, still with a pile of knitted goods in front of her; she looked well.



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LOTTERY FUNDED

## Interested in playing cricket?

### Chirk Cricket Club

Runs under 9, 11, and 13 teams;  
boys and girls welcome.

Junior practice takes place on  
**Monday evenings**

**from April 13<sup>th</sup>**

**6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
at Chirk AAA.**

Senior practice takes place on  
Tuesday evenings from April 7<sup>th</sup>  
starting at 6pm at Chirk AAA.

# FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS

Following my comments last month on the arrival of the first snowdrops in Price's Dingle, I am sorry to say that this year's display may not be as good as last year. We would like to remind everybody that wild flowers are protected by law. If anyone has been tempted to remove a clump of snowdrops for planting in their



own garden, this would not only be illegal but also selfish, as it deprives the rest of the community of the pleasure of witnessing the increased spread of these delightful harbingers of Spring.

The Friends spent a cold afternoon in February cutting down the brambles in 'the Brownie Meadow'. We hope by removing a large quantity of brambles in this area we shall see an increase in the

number of wild flowers in the Summer. Brambles can easily take over if not kept in check – as witnessed in any corner of untended land or neglected area of a garden. But do not worry there is still plenty left on site for blackberry picking in the Autumn.

I am again asking for volunteers to help on site. If you can't come and help at our monthly Sunday workdays/ Green Gyms, perhaps you could help with monitoring and surveying. If you have an interest and/or experience in bird watching, identification of fungi, butterflies, bugs, beasties, trees, grasses, flowers or any other aspect of nature, you may be able to collect valuable information for us. These are all very important aspects of our role but unfortunately, due to the size of the site we are finding them increasingly difficult to achieve. If you think you could help in this way please contact Ann: 01978 710327, or pop in to one of our meetings at 7.30 in St Martins Centre on the second Tuesday of any month.



Green Gyms/Workdays on Sunday:-  
12<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> June.

# CHIRK HOSPITAL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.

Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends wishes to thank Mrs C James and Mrs D Worrell for being such wonderful knitting ladies and making such beautiful handmade items for the stall which they regularly man at Chirk Hospital and which helps to raise funds for Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends. They have raised an amazing £500 from their latest event and thanks are given to everyone who supports this beautiful stall - so please watch out for the knitting stall next time you visit Chirk Hospital.

Following the wonderful success of their recently held Rummage Sale the Circle of Friends will be holding a grand April Fool Rummage Sale at Chirk Parish Hall on Saturday April 11th from 10am - 12 noon when there will once again be loads of bargains up for grabs at foolish prices - so why not pop along and see for yourself! We will also have tasty warming refreshments on sale to tuck into whilst you browse amongst the bargains!. For further information please call 01691 772321 or 01691 773642.



Freedom is like a two sided coin, one side is privilege, and the other is responsibility.

Answers to quiz on page 3

Answers March Quiz

1. Piano
2. Madonna
3. Baton Rouge
4. Every four years (extra point if you said too often!!)
5. Monreal & Welbeck (Arsenal) Rooney (Man. U)
6. Herring
7. Pegasus
8. Parachute Regiment
9. Milk
10. Garibaldi!



## St Martins Village Football Club

St. Martins have had a slow start after Christmas with a few games being postponed and a couple of free weekends, so not really too much to talk about on the footballing front. However we did manage to raise nearly £1,500 at our fundraiser race night thanks to the generosity of the people of the St. Martins area. This will go towards the money needed to re-enter the league for the 2015-2016 season and will help towards the cost of some new training equipment for the lads to help take them to the next level.

Although not much football has taken place since Christmas; the management and the lads and team are still hoping to finish 6th place from their remaining games which will give them a dignifying finish to their first season as a football team and give them something promising to build on next season.

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Hanging Baskets, Tubs and Troughs

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Apple, Pear, Plum, Damson Trees

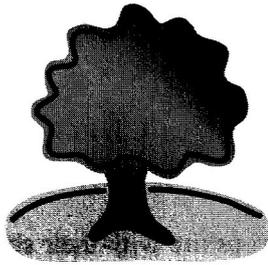
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Tues	Closed	Closed
Wed	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Thur	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Fri	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Sat	11:30 - 2pm	Closed

Closed Bank Holiday Mondays

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## FEBRUARY W.I

At the meeting on 3rd February President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone including 3 visitors. The newsletter was read and also thank you letters from Leonard Cheshire Disability and Community First Responders. Names were taken for visitor tickets for the Annual Meeting at the Theatre

Severn on 6th May. Invitations were received for Criftings WI open meeting on 14th April also for 2 available places on Gobowen WI's Jewellery Workshop on 18th April. The Steam Rally dates have changed to 20/21st June. We shall hold another Tea Party for the Elderly on 29th November this year. Myfanwy Dulson gave us more information on Stonyford Cottage Garden and Nursery for our August outing. Our speaker this month gave a most interesting talk and showed many of her lovely works of machine embroidery. She was thanked by Jean Lunt. The competition of three cupcakes was won by Ann Sadler with Shirley Willis and Ruth Dean joint 2nd. The exhibition of an unusual handmade item was won by Barbara Aston, 2nd was Isobel Banham, 3rd was Rita Jowett. The evening ended with members playing blind whist.



## MARCH W.I

At our meeting on 3rd March President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone and read the newsletter. Members were informed that the Group Meeting will be held on 23rd September and hosted by Whittington W.I. The Carol Service will be held on 7th December this year also at Whittington. The Derwen Fete will be on 4th June and we will be sponsoring a student for The Derwen Walk on 29th March. Myfanwy Dulson informed members of the options at Stoneyford Gardens for our outing and we decided on the talk, tour of garden and lunch, this will be on August 4th. Our speaker for the evening was Mr Bill Morris and his wife Lynn. They gave a talk and slide show on the Kenyan Schools Project charity which they run. They travel to Kenya twice a year and help young children in schools and babies in orphanages. They have built schools from scratch and renovated others. They take school supplies, clothing and toys over and many schools have been equipped with desks which they get built

locally. Our St Martins W.I. have now donated money for a desk. Bill and Lynn were thanked by Myfanwy Dulson. The competition of a photograph of a child was won by Ann Sadler with Jill Doughty 2nd and Morfydd James 3rd. The exhibition of a photograph frame was won by Myfanwy Dulson, 2nd Jill Doughty 3rd Angela Ree. The evening ended with a Beetle Drive. Next month our meeting will be on Tuesday April 7th and our speaker will be Marcia Meredith on Creative Folding. New members are always welcome.



**New project underway now at Mabokoni Primary**



# BIG

GET TOGETHER

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NEW, LEARN  
ABOUT YOUR  
COMMUNITY,  
FUN ACTIVITIES  
FOR ALL AGES**

**SATURDAY MAY 16TH**

**12.00PM - 4.00PM**

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Local people helping to make lives better through bringing improvements to the community



**\*\*\*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\*\*\***

Demonstrations / workshops by Border Counties School of Dance, Hula Hooping and Love 2 Dance confirmed. Watch out for more details on posters or on our facebook page 3PBigLocal

## Three Parishes Big Local March 2015

**Our BIG headlines this month are that the weekly FAIRshare Credit Union service points are up and running, we are launching our BIG Grants Scheme and planning our next Community event.**



The **FAIRshare Credit Union** service point launch took place in St Martins Centre on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February and was a great success. The service point is now open every Tuesday at the Centre from 9:30am to 11:30am and everyone is welcome to come along and find out more about **FAIRshare's** affordable loans, budgeting support, debt advice signposting and

information about saving regularly. No appointment necessary.

Our new **BIG Grants Scheme** launches this month with a total of £50,000 of funding available for larger community projects during the first 18 months of the scheme. The aim of the scheme is to support projects or activities, especially new or innovative projects, that work towards improving the Three Parishes Big Local Community, achieving our aspirations. There is scope for a wide range of activities to be funded by the Big Grants Scheme, for example:

new support or activity groups	community solar panel installations.
projects that develop the skills of young people or people of all ages	projects that have an impact on local tourism

The typical maximum grant value from this fund is £5,000 although we would consider supporting higher value projects that would make a significant contribution to the community.

The **BIG Grants Scheme** is open to individuals and community organisations based within the area. If you are just forming as a group and don't yet have a bank account or constitution don't be put off. Talk with our Co-ordinator to see how Big Local can help to develop your idea. Applications from organisations outside the area need to clearly demonstrate how the benefit of funding will help the Three Parishes Big Local area. If you are not sure if your project will qualify for funding, please talk to our Co-ordinator.

The next Big Get Together will take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at St Martins School from 12pm – 4pm. We are currently inviting community groups to get involved and organising fun and activities, and a competition, for all ages.

We would like to thank the adult and young people who have already come forward to volunteer to support youth activities in Weston Rhyn. A great deal of progress has been made and a Youth Council has been formed which will influence the development of future youth activities in the village. However, for this project to move forward we need one more adult volunteer. If you can give a couple of hours one evening a week, initially for three months, please get in touch with Andy or Bridget at Qube on 01691 656882 or email [info@big-local.org](mailto:info@big-local.org).



Finally, in the last month we have awarded Community Chest Grants to Carrot and Carp, Cedar Close Residents Association, the Village Green newsletter and Gobowen All Rounders. There are more grants of up to £500 available for new and established community groups, projects or activities within the Three Parishes Big Local area. Applications forms and full details are

available on our website, [www.big-local.org](http://www.big-local.org), or by contacting the Big Local Co-ordinator.

If you have an idea or would like to get involved with 3 Parishes Big Local, to keep up to date with the latest 3 Parishes Big Local news, or for more information,

**Contact the Big Local Co-ordinator, Bridget Laraway:**

Write to: Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, SY11 1RB	Tel: 01691 656882
Email: <a href="mailto:b.laraway@qube-oca.org.uk">b.laraway@qube-oca.org.uk</a>	Check out our website : <a href="http://www.big-local.org">www.big-local.org</a>
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