

# Update from the **Village Life Magazine Committee**

Welcome to the first **Village Life** magazine in our second year of existence!

Elsewhere in this edition you will see the report we gave to the Annual Parish meeting in April which (rightly) thanks all those who helped to make our first year a success – but that in turn increases the workload for the future. In passing I thank Val Williamson for her work as Treasurer for the last year. She has (sadly) left the committee and has been replaced as Treasurer by Maureen Pennington.

The housing developments in St Martins, both by the Wrekin Trust housing at Bower Farm and the start of the Irvine Gardens estate between The Keys and Garden Village will add to the number of homes – and hence will increase the number of copies of our magazine to be delivered.

This in turn means we will need more deliverers – and more advertisers to pay for increased production.

So, can you help? Would you be willing to join our band of deliverers by taking responsibility for delivering to 50 or more homes and businesses?

Do you have – or do you know some one who has – a business or service looking for new customers in the village who might want to advertise in **Village Life**?

If you can help on either question, please get in touch. You can drop into the Centre, email [stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com), or you can phone me on 01691 770677.

Our AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> May elected the committee for 2015/16, so we know the magazine will continue, but now we need your help to make our second year even more successful than the first.

John Stevens (Chair of the Editorial Committee)

.....  
**If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication  
please email it to [stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com)  
by no later than Friday 17th July 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  
[stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com)

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

# Parish Council

## From the Chair

Hello everyone

Can I again say thank you to all the leaders of groups who attended the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 16th April.

Andrea Brody from FAIRshare Credit Union gave a very good account of how the Credit Union came about. She also told us how the Credit Union works, how easy it is to join and the benefits of being a member.

Nick Heard updated us on where the 3 Parishes Big Local were up to, telling us of the Community Chest, Big Cash initiatives, Wheels to Work and some of the other things in the pipeline.

There were 12 other reports given, all very interesting and some were most entertaining. Brownies, Age UK, Friends of St Martins Footpaths, Youth Club, Historians, Parish Church and Ellesmere Road Chapel, to name but a few.

May is the beginning of the new year for Parish Councils everywhere. The first item on the agenda is to choose the year's Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committee members, each one very important position in the life of your Parish Council. Committees look at many issues and gain information to make informed proposals to put before full Council. The Finance, Recreation Services, Street Lighting and Planning Committees all have a vital part to play and help to keep the full Council meeting within the two hour limit stated in the Standing Orders (the rules by which meetings are governed).

We are also in need of another new Parish Councillor. Helen Williams has taken the tough decision to resign, to give her more time with her family. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, applications forms will be available at the Centre. after the required time allotted to giving notice to the community should anyone wish to call an election. Notices are up now.

Owen Paterson has been re-elected as the Member of Parliament for North Shropshire. I wish him well in his endeavours to represent us in the national government.

# Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

At the Annual meeting of the Parish Council held this month. Cllr Sue Schofield was re-elected as Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Glenn Pennington was also re-appointed as Vice Chairman. Members of the Parish Council were appointed to the following committees; Executive, Finance, Recreation Services, Planning and Street Lighting.

This meeting was then followed by a Council meeting. The police now attend most meetings. CSO Dave Hughes reported on the crime figures for the previous month and gave an update on the speed control issue especially around the school.

The only planning application considered was for the erection of a two storey extension to the side elevation at Ash Grove in Overton Road Ref 15/01765. Members made no comment on this application. However Members did express concern that the application for the change of use of part of former school site to provide temporary residential site for a single travelling show people family for a period of up to one year at Ifton Heath C P School, Overton Road, Ifton Heath, St Martins, had been granted despite the Parish Council's objections.

Various pot holes were reported and passed to Shropshire Council Highways department for action. The Parish Council are also looking at designs and costings for a bus shelter at Oak Drive which will need Shropshire Council approval pending on the location.

Reports of dog fouling are still a concern. Up until recently the Police CSO's could issue fixed penalty fines to anyone caught with their dog fouling any public area. However this has now been taken off them by Shropshire Council. To tackle this problem, Keep Britain Tidy has launched a national dog fouling campaign to encourage irresponsible dog owners to clean up after their pets. The campaign features eye-catching, creative of a 'dog poo fairy' and the message 'There's no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy', and can be displayed on bus stops, billboards, phone boxes and litter bins. Again subject to Shropshire Council approval the Parish Council are looking at sticking these posters to all litter bins in the parish.

The Parish Council are now looking at various website providers to enable the public to access more information on the work of the Parish Council.

Unfortunately Helen Williams resigned from the parish council this month. Notices will now be displayed advertising this vacancy.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 11th June 2015 at 7.00 pm in the St Martins Community Centre.

Edward Davies FILCM, St Martins Parish Clerk.

Email; [edward865davies@btinternet.com](mailto:edward865davies@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01743 366420

## Current Parish Councillors

Dan Anderton	0787 555 7802
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	07702 991 845
Brian Latham	01691 772890
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
John Sands	01691 772394
John Stevens	01691 770677
Sue Schofield	01691 777710

# Shropshire Council

## Councillor Steve Davenport

Unitary Councillor, St Martins School Governor, Chair of St Martins Centre Trustees

Dear All

With the distraction of the elections now over, and Summer on its way, village life does not stop. There are changes constantly happening within the village with a recently completed widened pavement making a safer walking route to school. Also coming soon will be an extension to the pavement on Colliery Road making life easier for one and all.

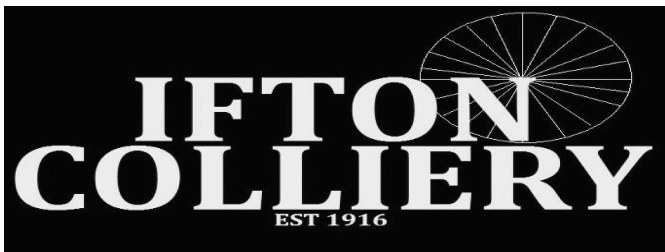
Every effort is being made by myself and the Parish Council to convert Kimberley Lane into a cul-de-sac.

We are still awaiting an outcome on the appeal against allowing gas extraction at Duddleston Heath.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any issues or concerns. Steve

Please call or email me if you have any queries

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



## Ifton Colliery Band News

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May the Band took part in the 51st North West Brass Band Association Festival held in the Pavilion Gardens in Buxton. The Band played very well and were awarded third prize for their efforts.

The Band's next outing is on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of May when they will be taking part in the Whit Friday March contest held across Tameside and Saddleworth.



The Band will be holding its AGM on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm at the St Martins Centre.

All the band would like to wish Joey Smout a happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 21st of May!



# Police Report

## Speeding

Speeding in all our villages is something that is regularly brought to my attention.

Speed, or the inappropriate use of speed, is a factor in a significant percentage of road traffic incidents. The greater the speed involved the more serious the incident is likely to be. It is estimated that excessive or inappropriate speed is a contributory factor in the vast majority of vehicle collisions, particularly those in rural areas.

## **Speed limits**

Appropriate speed limits are important for safety and environmental reasons. Speed limits vary according to the type of vehicle you are driving and the nature of the road. You must not exceed the maximum speed limits set for the road and your vehicle.

## **Speed limits and your vehicle**

Excessive speed is a significant factor in collisions and has a huge impact on the severity of injuries sustained.

If you speed, you are more likely to have a crash that results in a serious or fatal collision. Slow down - and allow for other people's mistakes.

## **Speed limits**

Speeding means that you will have much less time to react to driving conditions. It also means that if you have a collision it will be much more violent.

Be aware that:

- at 20 mph a child hit by a vehicle has a 90 per cent chance of survival
- at 30 mph a child hit by a vehicle has a 50 per cent chance of survival
- at 40 mph a child hit by a vehicle has a 10 per cent chance of survival

We are currently carrying out speed enforcement as and when we can. We have made a request for a mobile flashing speed sign that links in to our laser gun that can be used everywhere. We recently borrowed one from Shrewsbury and it proved to be very useful.

As always, please feel free to contact me should you have anything you wish to discuss.

PC 3718 Katie Le'Clere

Oswestry Rural North,

E-Mail - [oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Mobile – 07792 774024

Safer Neighbourhoods Team

**To report crime please dial 101 or in an emergency dial 999**

# St. Martins Parish Church.

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

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

**Contact Revd Stuart Jermy - [sjvicar@btinternet.com](mailto:sjvicar@btinternet.com);**

**Tel:778 468; text 07766 255436**

### **Confirmation Service with Bishop Jonathan of Lichfield - 21st June**

Our Diocesan Bishop The Right Reverend Jonathan Gledhill has announced his retirement as Bishop of Lichfield. He will be finishing September this year. On June 21st he will be coming to St. Johns Weston Rhyn to Confirm and Baptise candidates from both St. Martins and Weston Rhyn. **If you would like to be confirmed** please get in touch with the Vicar. This will be his last visit up here and everybody is welcome to attend the service at 11.00am.

At the Parish church **our main service is at 9:30am each week** and once a month our **Sunday FIRST** Family Worship Service takes place on the 1st Sunday of every month at 11.00am. It is a half hour service with music, story and prayer and afterwards we go into the hall for coffee, cake and some craft activities. This service is popular with all ages but is great for young children and their parents.

**Next Service June 7th at 11:00am and July 5th**

### **Church family Snowdonia walk - Saturday 4th July**

"The ridge of The Glyders is one of the most majestic and inspiring in Snowdonia," says one hillwalking website. A group from the church will be walking up to take a look at the view in July. Praying for good weather! Walkers of all ages are welcome to join us - please contact for more details.

### **Weddings**

St. Martins Parish Church is one of the most beautiful and serene buildings you could find for such an occasion. A grade 1 listed building with more than a 1000 year tradition of marrying people. There are many ways you can make your wedding special and our church is the perfect place for it. Getting married adds that spiritual dimension to your relationship as well a sense of security to your family life. God's blessing on their life together is the main attraction for many couples, whatever their beliefs.

### **Christenings / Baptisms**

The church continues to be a popular place for child baptisms. It doesn't cost anything for this service which can be done during morning worship or in the afternoon.

Recently we baptised Jake Sliwinski and Charlotte Humphreys.

Lastly - **June the 15th is St Swithun's Day.**

The real St Swithun was a 9th century Bishop and later patron saint of Winchester. **The legend** is that whatever the weather is on St Swithun's day, it will stay that way for forty days!

# Village Life

## Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2015

In January of last year a public meeting at the Centre decided to set up a committee to launch a new regular magazine for St Martins village. Ten people agreed to serve on the editorial committee, and they subsequently agreed to name the magazine **Village Life**, to produce it on a bi-monthly basis starting in May 2014 and set the target of making it financially self-supporting and sustainable.

Thanks to the hard work of the committee in composing and editing each edition, the dozen or so volunteers who turn up at the Centre to print and assemble it, and the 26 volunteers who deliver it to every home (and a number of businesses) in the village, the first year of production was completed with the publication of the March 2015 edition at the end of that month.

All the feedback we have received tells us that **Village Life** is well received and well read, but we are always open to any new ideas that could improve it – so please keep them coming!

The target of financial sustainability is of course a never ending task, but, thanks to an initial grant from the Local Joint Committee, ongoing grants from the Parish Council and Big Local, together with advertising revenue from 37 local businesses and organisations, we have raised sufficient income to ensure continuation well into our second year and we are confident that we can extend well beyond that.

We express our thanks to all those who fall into the categories above, as well as to the many people who contribute articles and “what’s on” information to each edition, and additionally to those individuals who have made donations to the magazine whether directly, or through the collection boxes around the village.

Our special thanks go to the Trustees of St Martins Centre with whom we have a reciprocal arrangement that keeps the cost of printing down for us and ensures that that they have a good deal with the supplier of their printer/copier.

Finally, our thanks go to some people who have contributed to specific activities for which we are especially grateful. Sue Schofield, who does the detailed work of turning contributor items into a well laid out magazine; to Cherry Healey, who has transferred all of her support, knowledge and enthusiasm from Chatabout to **Village Life** (including the list of all her previous advertisers); and finally to the late Cynthia Gartry whose enduring contribution was the inspiration for the design of the cover of the magazine.

John Stevens      Chair, Editorial Committee

# Carrot and Carp

## Allotment Association

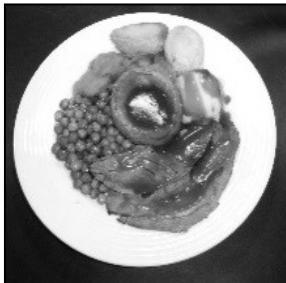
Hi Everybody

Well Spring is well on its way, but we all have had a late start in the allotments because of the cold weather we've had. But then we had a mild spell and everybody got stuck-in and started planting potatoes and the like. Then the sunny spells came and up popped the plants only for 'Jack Frost' to come along and blacken the heads of the potatoes and killed off my runner beans. My fault for being too eager to get growing.

Well it is nice to see that all the plots have been taken again and all the allotments are really looking well. But we have had one mishap. Please can the public be aware that the allotments are not a public right of way. They are only for the allotment holders. We have had a person that has walked over some plots with their dog. The allotment holders have spent a lot of time digging and sowing and for someone to walk over there is wrong in every respect. So whoever you are, please keep off the allotments as they are not a 'Public Right of Way'.

On a final note, I would like to thank Kath Martindale and her husband for all the cow muck that you have supplied us with. Thank You very much from all the allotment holders.

Tony Hall



## PENSIONERS SPECIAL

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\*NOT AVAILABLE ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAYS



# ST MARTINS COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Though the date hasn't been finalised yet, John and I are hoping to conduct a **First Aid course** at the village centre in June. We hope that as many villagers as possible will come along. It won't cost anything, there won't be an exam and there is no certificate to hang on your wall. We will try to make it as useful, entertaining and memorable as possible – it's Everyday First Aid not an introduction to A&E! If you would like to "have a go" there will be plenty of opportunity, but if you would just like to listen and watch that is fine, too. No-one will be forced into grovelling around on the floor and we won't be talking about identifiable 999 jobs! Watch out for the date and book your place early as we already know there is going to be lots of interest.

We would very much like to thank two families in the village who have lost a family member recently, for sending generous donations to the CFR fund. It is kind of you to think of us at a time of such sorrow and we very much appreciate it. We, too, were sad to hear the news and ask you to accept our sympathy.

Here is our regular plea for the name or number of your house to be made more visible. I drove up and down a postcode recently trying to find a property just by the process of elimination. Eventually when I did get there, I remarked that there didn't seem to be any marker. "Oh yes there is," retorted the owner stiffly, pointing to the house name plate ... on the floor in the kitchen.

Now is a good time to see for yourself how visible your house name or number is from the road. Clear away the privet, paint it up in white, replace it if necessary. Check your neighbours', too. It's a small job that could save a life!  
Effie CFR RC 1189



# St Martins Methodist Church

	7th June	14th June	21st June	28th June	
St Martins 10.00	Shoreman	Wilson HC	Holmes	11.00 Rev A Evans	
Moors 11.00	Shoreman	Walker	Holmes	@ St Martins	
	5th July	12th July	19th July	26th July	
St Martins 10.00	AWT	11.00 @ Ellesmere	11.00 @ Moors	Shoreman HC	
Moors 11.00	AWT	@ Ellesmere	Wilson CA	Shoreman	
	2nd August	9th August	16th August	23rd August	30th August
St Martins 10.00	AWT	Wilson HC	AWT	Shoreman	11.00 @ Chirk
Moors 11.00	AWT	Wilson HC	AWT	Shoreman	@ Chirk

## AROUND ASHGROVE

Twenty eight years ago we purchased the old vicarage to save it from demolition and re-development with the intention of extending and modernizing it to become a Residential Home for 10 elderly people, giving homes, jobs and trade to local people.

We were able to carry out this plan and during the years Ashgrove has cared for 145 people and provided jobs for 66 people. However the time has now come for us to retire and pass the reins to someone else .

Ashgrove will continue under the ownership of Mrs Cherie Reynolds, who will live on the premises with her daughter.

We have found this a difficult decision with having met so many interesting and wonderful characters and families, however the memories will stay with us.

We would like to send our best wishes to Cherie, the residents and staff and would like to thank the people and businesses in St Martins for the support they have given us over the years.

Helen and Brian Case.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* All at Village Life would like to \*  
 \* extend their Best Wishes to Helen \*  
 \* and Brian for their retirement and \*  
 \* thank them for all the help and \*  
 \* care they have lavished on the \*  
 \* residents over the years. \*  
 \* Welcome to Cherie and her \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

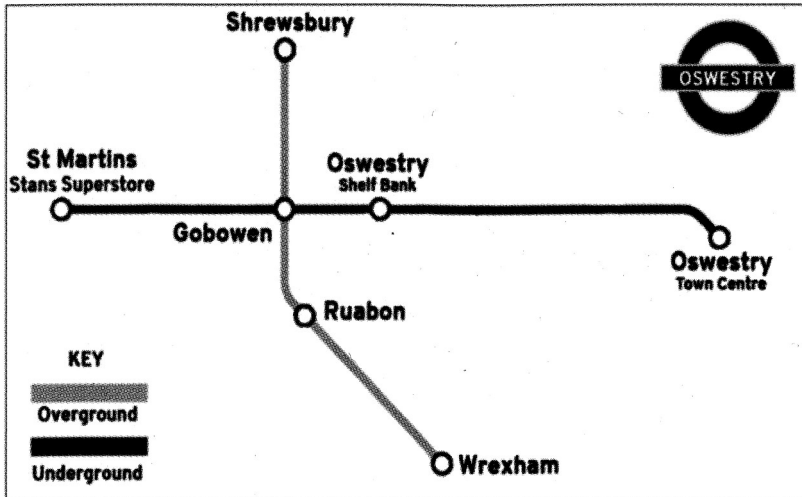
Has anyone else seen this in the I♥SY magazine? Our question is, was this published on April 1st (or is it something else Shropshire Council has not told us about)?



# We're Going Underground!



Plans to re-open the Cambrian Line from Oswestry to Gobowen have been almost approved, but with an unexpected twist... It'll be underground! The route will run from Stans Superstore in St Martins through to Cross Street in Oswestry town centre. The 'Town Centre' station will be located beneath the old Clinton's Cards & Burton's shops.



The site of Shelf Bank in Oswestry is also set to be a station serving the eastern side of the town, along with Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital and Gobowen having their own underground stations. Opposition....

A spokesman from the project told us 'there has been no opposition from local residents, or businesses, and we expect to begin on the project in early 2016'.

It'll be here soon...

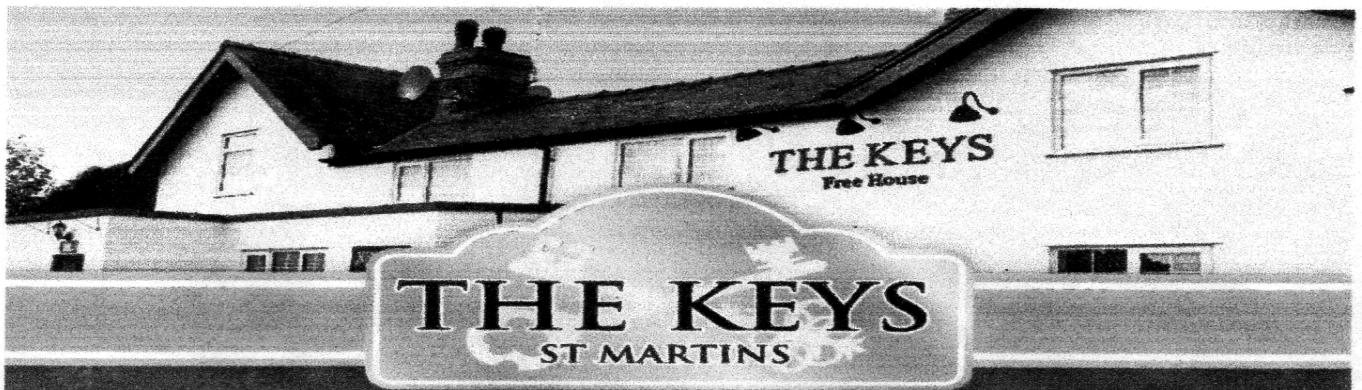
So, remember...



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PLEASE MIND THE GAP!



**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**

**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		





## Food For Thought

Well, hasn't the year flown by. We have been reminiscing over the meals we have had since starting to write this column and it would be wrong (it's only our opinion anyway) to list the places we have eaten in order of preference. However, taking everything into consideration, quality of food, ambience, service, value for money etc., our favourite place is The Keys at St. Martins.



We decided this time to go a little further afield. So we chose Bryn Howel Hotel at Trevor. It is a striking building and looked very inviting. We went into the bar which was rather cold and had a very poor selection of beers, so off to a bad start.

It was a set menu offering either a two or three course meal at £22.95 and £24.95 respectively. There was a good varied choice with interesting food. My wife chose melon slices with raspberry sorbet. I chose chicken and smoked bacon terrine. For the main course my wife chose Megrim Sole with sun dried tomato risotto. I opted for belly pork with black pudding mash. Both main courses came with Chef's choice of fresh vegetables.

We were ushered through to the restaurant where it was warm and with very pleasant surroundings and views. The starters were beautifully presented and on the generous side, especially the terrine. I said to my wife that the terrine was very good but it could have done with some crusty rolls or toast. We then noticed some butter on the table, so we called the waitress and asked the question. She was at a loss (we think it was her first day) so went to find out. She came back to say she was sorry but the Chef had forgotten to cook them. Well that was honest! The hot crusty rolls then arrived and were very nice too. The main courses soon arrived, again beautifully presented and generous.

We had wine by the glass as we of course had the car with us. They do have a wine list that is both very comprehensive and reasonably priced.

Overall it was a very enjoyable evening that cost £64.95 - certainly somewhere to remember for special occasions.

### **Village Life Foodsmith**

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# WESTON RHYN GARDENERS' CLUB

Pete Evans, deputy head of Horticulture at Derwen College also a former chef, gave a very entertaining and colourful presentation on 'Edible Flowers' He set up 2 tables with a wonderful display of flowers – dahlias, fuchsia, peony, tulips, dianthus, lavender, targets/marigold, nasturtium, chives, hawthorn, viola, daisy and fruit blossom – all of which are edible. The leaves of Herb Robert, dandelion, Jack by the hedge and wild garlic can all be used in salads, as can the flower buds of chives – the flavours are peppery/garlic and their flowers can be sprinkled on the salad as well (after a good rinsing to remove any insects!) The flowers from these same 'weeds' can be used as decoration on savoury canapés and desserts.

Pickled nasturtium seeds (poor man's capers) can be used in tartare sauce, giving it a slight different flavour. Ground elder leaves can be stir fried with dandelion and wild garlic leaves. The petals of peony, tulip and dahlias were all eaten by the Victorians as were fuchsias. To test if the flowers are o.k. to eat, first rub them on your skin and if there is no reaction, you are good to go. Pete suggested putting cream cheese or olives in the throats of antirrhinum/snapdragon as canapés. Marigold flowers, with their beautiful orange colour, can be stirred through rice or pasta and their leaves are quite aromatic.

One of our members, David Wilton, was volunteered to have a go at decorating a small sponge cake with squirty cream and various flowers – a very creditable effort, looking quite charming with the colourful petals of fuchsia and violas. Nasturtium leaves can be rolled around food. Lemon verbena leaves can be used to line the base of a cake tin, before the mixture for a lemon drizzle cake is poured in. Once the cake is cooked the leaves can be peeled off, but not before they have infused the cake with extra lemon flavour.

Pete's piece de resistance was the jellies in cocktail glasses with flowers suspended in the jelly – fuchsias, petunias, lilac and bronze fennel leaves.

Ann, our chairperson, was persuaded to try a small piece of an electric daisy flower. Apparently, judging by her expression, it produces a burning and tingling sensation that lasts for a few minutes. The electric daisy flowers can be used (with care!) in sorbets and the edge of Margarita glasses.

Apparently Pete is working on a History of herbs, incorporating his 'cheffy' skills and we look forward to booking him again in the near future!

There is no meeting in June as there is a club outing to Bodnant Gardens on 10<sup>th</sup>.

8<sup>th</sup> July meeting – 'Brownhill House Garden' with Yoland Brown

# QUIZ

The Cricket Season is upon us again so here goes!!

1. Which England bowler has just beaten Sir Ian Botham's bowling record?
2. For what did the letter S stand for in F S Truman's name?
3. Who was the Scotsman to captain the England cricket team?
4. What was Alan Knott's role for England
5. Which England player was allegedly sent in to run Geoffrey Boycott out so they could speed up the run rate?
6. Mike Denness (as match referee) disciplined 6 players in one team for a variety of offences. Which side?
7. An umpire puts the fingers of his right hand on his right shoulder, what is he signalling?
8. A batsman looks at the umpire and holds up two fingers (index and first finger) What should the umpire do?
9. A batsman hits the ball and it lodges in his pad, the wicket keeper runs round grabs the ball and appeals for a catch. Is it out?
10. How many ways can you be out at cricket?

Answers on page 16



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**May Quiz Answers from  
page 15**

1. James Anderson
2. Stewards
3. Mike Denness
4. Wicket Keeper / Batsman
5. I T Botham
6. India
7. One run short
8. Give guard on middle & leg
9. Not out it's a dead ball
10. Ten

## Dean Lewis

St Martins

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The Border Counties Advertiser Nov 7th 1951

**This could be YOU**

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**Gets over £4 a week at 18**

Meet "Nipper" Gibson - a shop assistant a few months ago, now working on haulage and earning £4.11.0 for a five-day week. "My dad, who's been a collier all his life, recommended Coalmining," he says, "because conditions and training are much better these days."

**Decided to make a future in Mining**  
 "Nipper" is staying in this great industry. He says, "I can see there's really good money ahead." He's right, too, for the average earnings of skilled face-workers are between £8 and £12 a week.

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Approved by the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the National Fuel Board

This advert, dated 1951, was found in an old piece of furniture. £4 a week was big money 64 years ago - and one of the Village Life team assures us (from memory) that even in 1971 you could keep house on £11 a week which included paying the rent, utilities, food and everything else!

# Condolences

Everyone at Village Life would like to express their sympathy to the families of the following:-

Sister Meg Massey (Red Cross Nurse who had a Wirehair Fox Terrier) who died in February shortly after her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Cynthia Garry, (ex-Parish Councillor and School Governor) who died in April.

Reg Bowyer, (ex-Parish Councillor) died in April.

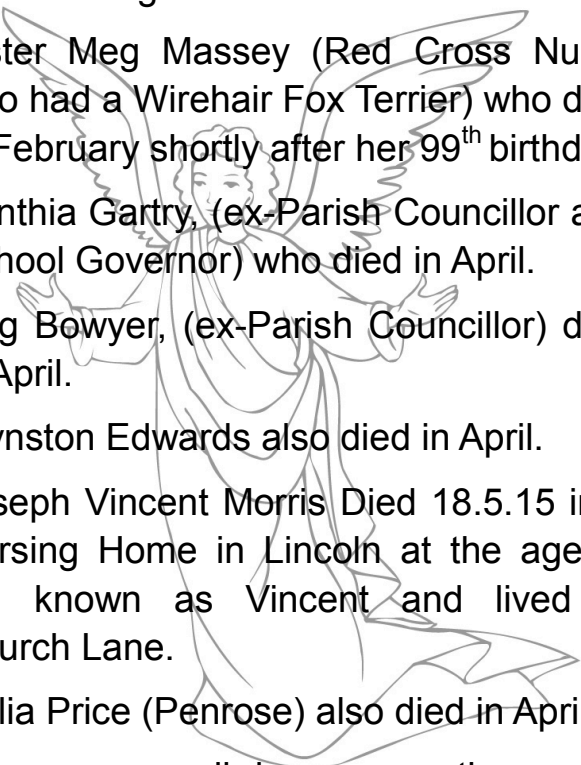
Wynston Edwards also died in April.

Joseph Vincent Morris Died 18.5.15 in a Nursing Home in Lincoln at the age of 88, known as Vincent and lived in Church Lane.

Celia Price (Penrose) also died in April.

There may well be many others who have passed on, who are unknown to us and we extend heartfelt sympathy to those too.

Should anyone wish to notify the community of the death of a loved one, please email us the details.



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# St Martins Centre

Hi Everyone

As I sit here the sun is streaming in through the windows and I feel that summer is here, but the wind is so cold.

STaR Housing have granted us £500 to replace one of the seats in the Community Garden. It's made from recycled plastic so should last a good long time, if it's not installed by the time you read this it won't be long. The plan is to replace one seat each year until all the rough wooden benches are gone.

We have applied for a grant from Awards for All to help us with the financing of the upgrade to the kitchen with a working oven, induction hob and a dishwasher. We already have stainless steel worktops and a non slip floor, all together it will be classed as a commercial kitchen which could be hired out for small commercial enterprises. Big Local-Community Chest and Youth Club have also put some money into the pot (no pun intended).

We are happy to welcome a new Trustee, Mr Dan Anderton. Dan has a wide interest in all things digital and one of the items he is addressing is an upgrade of the Community Website, we are hoping it will be ready soon, look out for the banner on the front of the Centre to say that it's ready (if it's not already there).

## Some dates for your diary:

**October 3rd:** Family Night Out Entertainment by Dave Lloyd. Bar and Food.

**November 14th:** Table Top Sale. Last year we had 14 tables booked, can we do the same this year.

# 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,  
flexible and reasonably priced.*

**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.

# Can YOU grow the tallest sunflower?

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

It's not too late to get started....

All you have to do is complete the form below and bring it along to collect your seeds at St Martins Centre any weekday 10-2pm (except Wednesday)

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<sup>th</sup>.



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

Address.....

Mobile:.....Landline.....

Email.....

## Grow It, Make It , Show It, Show

This year's Gardening Show will have a TOP VASE for flowers and TOP TRAY for vegetables. Full rules can be seen on the door of St Martins Centre.

Top Tray: Main rule for vegetables: 3 Types on a tray or black cloth max: 18" x 24", making sure they are in good condition and not over hanging the sides.

Top Vase: between 5 and 10 stems of at least 2 different varieties.

### **SO COME AND HAVE A GO**

1st Prize £10 - 2nd Prize £5 - 3rd Prize £3

**Help Will Be There on Morning of Show**

## What's on in June!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
Tues 2nd	St Martins W.I "Don't you know there's a war on?"	Ifton Miners Institute Lounge	7:30
Tues 2nd	SHAAC Car Club Meeting	Whittington Castle	
Sun 7th	The House of Blackstar Living History	Whittington Castle	
Every Day until 23rd	Lamb Feeding	Park Hall Farm	12pm & 4.15pm
Wed 10th	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club	Outing to Bodnant Gardens	
Fri 12th	Flower Festival	St Mary's Church, Chirk	10am
Tues 16th	Craft Guild Craft and Quilt Show	Outing to Gresford	
Thurs 17th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sat/Sun 20th/21st	Steam, Vintage Vehicle & Machinery Rally and Craft Fair	Oswestry Showground Park Hall	10am
20 <sup>th</sup> June to 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	'Decoding Ancient Egypt'	Wrexham Museum	
Sun 21st	Planthunters Fair	Whittington Castle	



## What's on in July!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Every Day until 23rd	Lamb Feeding	Park Hall Farm	12pm & 4.15pm
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wrexham Heritage Fair	Wrexham Museum	10am
Tues 7th	St Martins W.I. Barbara Maitra-Passage to India	Ifton Miners Institute Lounge	7:30pm
Wed 8th	Weston Rhyn Gardeners Club	Visit to Brownhill House garden	
Thurs 9th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
20 <sup>th</sup> July to 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Wales, Industry & the First World War'	Wrexham Museum	10am
Sat/Sun 25th/26th	Multi Period Living History Weekend	Whittington Castle	10am

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

**Friday 18th July 2015.**

If you send us an article for the next edition, please bear in mind that it will be delivered in early August, 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 August and September (or later).



## St. Martins Sports Centre

Price List April 2015 – March 2016

St. Martins Membership - £20.00 Per Year  
(April to April)

Hire Prices – Per 45 Minutes

	<b>Non – Member</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Member Block Bookings</b>
<b>Full Hall Hire</b>	£30.45	£24.40	£20.33
<b>Single Court Hire</b>	£7.60	£6.05	£5.05

Membership money is due in April and will last until  
March 31st 2016, regardless of time of purchase.

Block Bookings consist of 10 week blocks,  
if a club cancels 2 or more sessions  
within this block they will pay the member price rather than the block  
booking price.

Please ensure that you understand a casual booking will not  
guarantee a slot each week, block bookings will take priority  
on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us  
through St Martins school.

## Mrs. Peate



Pentre was once a one-up, one-down pit cottage, part of a group of rented cottages just up the lane from Ifton Colliery. In 1943 it became the home of Mrs. Phyllis Peate at the age of 22, two years after her marriage. She left there to live in Ash Grove six years ago, a move from a family home she had lived in for 66 years. She is now 95 years of age, bright, welcoming and smiling easily and clearly comfortably settled in Ash Grove.

Life at Pentre was busy. Phyllis's husband, Doug, worked ultimately as a night overman, at the pit until its closure in 1968, after which he worked the best part of a year on salvaging the pit machinery. Then without so much as a day off he went to work in the brickworks in Overton. Their daughter Margaret, was born two and half years before they came to live at Pentre.

As Margaret grew up the limited space in their cottage meant that she slept on what could be called the landing, behind a simple stud wall. There was no mains water. All the water had to be fetched from Pistyll Lane with its spring a good quarter of a mile away along the lane. It was a considerable improvement when the mains were 'connected' and there was a single tap on the lane by the house!

In 1953 two cottages were made into one and the family were able to live in a little more space. Then at the closure of the pit, they were able to buy the property and begin the process of extending it. Phyllis's contribution to this was by working, doing washing and being housekeeper for a farmer and then becoming a 'postie', and this as she was around sixty years old! She went about by bike, postbag over the front wheel, in all weathers as the post must, up and down all the sharp hills around Glyn Morlas, Rock and the Forge. This would occupy the mornings, but the afternoons were equally busy attending to the animals the family kept, and the gardening with all its own demands. Phyllis can no doubt recommend keeping busy and getting plenty of exercise to help live a long life. She is certainly a testament to the benefits of exercise and cheerfulness.

She went about St. Martin's well into her eighties on her bike, often with terrier Tiny in the basket on the handlebars. Once, a car knocked her off the bike just by what was the Co-op, now the hairdresser, and she was taken into the shop with all kinds of fear of doom, but in a short while she'd brushed herself off and was off down the road to continue with the shopping. There was another dog, Tiny's predecessor Rover, who signed himself on at the pit. He would pass Doug on the lane as he returned from night shift, maybe accompany him back to the garden gate but then Rover would go and spend the day amongst all the hubbub and machinery of the pit, pleased to have the 'snap' that one miner brought for him every day. Rover stayed at home on Saturdays and Sundays. He must have needed the rest.

Phyllis still has a 'bike', but this one has no pedals. It's a frame on wheels with brakes to keep her steady, and she calls it her bike. She has had a fall but, as Margaret says, she knows how to fall and thankfully nothing was broken. Lifelong energy and a positive outlook must also be important secrets. The clear message is, 'Life is for living. So live it!'

Don Borland



# SUDOKU

**Here's a great picture for you to colour**

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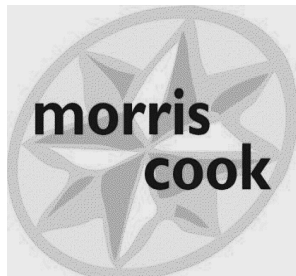
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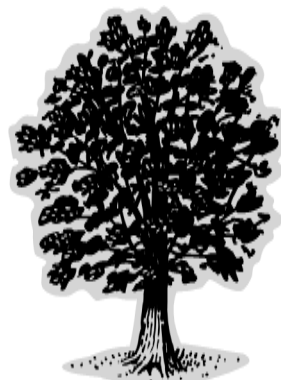
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## **Age UK Day Centre**

Cedar Close, St Martins

We hold our day centre meeting on a Tuesday and welcome our members with refreshments. They pay for the day and have a raffle ticket. We offer pleasure, companionship, care and attention, with a varied activity programme. The Keys provide us with an excellent lunch and Dial a Ride transport. We also are able to care for people with Dementia which gives the carers a break for a few hours. We would like to thank those people who support us when we are fund raising which we need to do to keep the costs down.

We are looking for an Organiser, Secretary and Trustees, please get in touch if you would like one of these positions. Myfanwy Dulson.

---

## **FLOWER FESTIVAL AT ST MARY'S CHURCH** **CHIRK**

A three day Flower Festival has been arranged by Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day, the chosen theme of which is 'Peace'. The Flower Festival will open for public viewing on Friday June 12th at 10am and there will also be a special concert on Friday June 12th at 7pm featuring the Ysgol Y Waun school choir and also Cor Meibion Dyffryn Ceiriog. Tickets will be £5 and are available by calling 01691 772321 .

The Festival will be open all day until 6pm on Saturday June 13th and will end on Sunday June 14th when it will be open from 12 noon - 4.30pm. It will conclude with a Songs Of Praise Service at 5pm. It is hoped that everyone will come along and see the beautiful floral arrangements which are being created by local organisations. It is also hoped that an exhibition of local war-time artefacts and memories will be on display in the Church Hall where refreshments will be available courtesy of Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends.

# Cedar Close

## Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing tenants benefit from Prince's Trust project

The redevelopment of the external communal area at the Cedar Close sheltered scheme, St Martins, has been completed by local volunteers from the Prince's Trust.

Work has included removal of damaged planters, laying a concrete level area with brick edging to create an easily accessible communal seating and patio area for residents.

The work was part of a four week project coordinated by the Prince's Trust as an element of a twelve week programme with the aim of helping young people aged between 16-25 develop employment skills and confidence whilst helping local communities.



The work at Cedar Close was funded by two weeks of fundraising activity, during which donations were received from kind local suppliers. TG Builders Merchants offered discounts on concrete and JC Dykes provided discounts on the benches, as well as £400 being raised by bag packing in Morrisons in Oswestry.

The group considered a number of potential local projects, but voted Cedar Close as the one they wanted to work on, which delighted residents.

Lauren Woods, Involvement and Empowerment Officer for Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, said:

“The work that the Prince's Trust has done is fantastic and it's great that our tenants are going to be able to benefit from it.

Knowing that those involved in the group will also benefit is great and it's been rewarding for us at Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing to be involved.”

Phillip Jones, a resident of Cedar Close, said:

*“The residents of Cedar Close are very grateful for all the hard work that has gone into this project, including all of the fundraising by bag packing and more. Several other tenants and I have already been enjoying the sun sitting in our new seating area, and looking at the weather forecast we will have a few more days this week to enjoy ourselves.*”



*We're also really glad that a cedar tree has been planted so we can all say that Cedar Close has a cedar tree again!"*

Kevin Faulkner, Team Leader of the Prince's Trust team, said:

"This community project is part of a 12 week programme managed by the City of Wolverhampton College and is aimed at improving the young people of Oswestry's team working, confidence and employability skills. The group of 10 students from Oswestry visited a number of possible projects but selected Cedar Close as their preferred project because they really wanted to help the residents have somewhere to socialise outside and it was the most challenging project offered to them. They have worked tirelessly for 9 days to ensure the project is completed to a standard they can be proud of.

We all hope that the residents benefit from the work the group is doing and would like to thank Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, Morrisons, the people of Oswestry and local suppliers for their support."

## Cedar Close Community Room

### Weekly Activities

<b>Mon:</b>	10:00 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Tea/Coffee, Biscuits, Raffle & Chat
	14:00 onwards	<b>Cards</b>	
<b>Tues:</b>	9:00 – 14:30	<b>Age UK</b>	Games, Armchair Keep Fit, Bingo, Handy Craft, Quiz etc.
	19:00 – 21:00	<b>Bingo</b>	including Raffle, tea/coffee
<b>Wed:</b>	14:00 – 16:00	<b>Craft Group</b>	Knit, Crochet etc.
	19:15 – 21:00	<b>Historians</b>	1st Wed of each month
<b>Thurs:</b>	12:00 – 14:00	<b>Funday</b>	Tea/Coffee Games, Films etc.
	14:00 onwards	<b>Cards</b>	
<b>Fri:</b>	10:00 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Tea/Coffee, Biscuits, Raffle & Chat
<b>Sat:</b>	14:00 onwards	<b>Cards</b>	
	19:00 – 21:00	<b>Bingo</b>	Including Raffle, tea/coffee

**WENDY'S A BIG LOSER**  
**AND**  
**YOU CAN BE ONE TOO!**



because you're amazing

Wendy's loss is Slimming World's gain!

Super Slimmer Wendy Chesters has lost a jaw dropping 8 stone after joining Slimming World in January 2013. Wendy said "I love everything about food and eating the Extra Easy way is so enjoyable and family friendly, no food is banned and I can still enjoy chocolate!"

Wendy was so excited about the changes she had made to her own life that she really wanted to help and support others to lose weight and feel great!

Having completed her Consultant training at Slimming World's Head Office in Derbyshire Wendy took over The St Martin's Group at the end of April.

Wendy said "I'm buzzing with excitement and love being part of the local community"

Since opening the group the St Martin's Slimmers have lost an amazing 10 stone in just 2 weeks!

Local girl Emma Ball said "being part of the group is brilliant, it's just like another family, we share ideas, recipes and have loads of fun in the group"

---

## **St Martin Book Group**

The St Martins Book Group has now been established for several months. There are 9 in the group from varying backgrounds and with diverse interests in reading matter. Books are selected each month on an alphabetical rota and this has lead to a broad selection of authors, from the very modern in Kirsty Wark, to the classic in William Golding and we are currently reading Moon Tiger by Penelope Lively.

The Group meets to discuss the chosen book at the St Martins Centre on a Monday evening, approximately every 6 weeks, starting at 6.30pm. It would be really nice to swell the numbers a little, so if you love reading, and no matter what your particular taste in reading matter, we would love to see you at the next meeting, which will be held on Monday 29 June (or you can contact Kathy Latham on 01691 772890 or email [kathy.latham1946@btinternet.com](mailto:kathy.latham1946@btinternet.com)).



## There's no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy

Keep Britain Tidy's research shows that dog fouling is a major concern to members of the public. There also appears to be a bigger problem that has arisen in that increasing amounts of bagged dog faeces are being left behind as people fail to dispose of their bags after cleaning up after their pets.

We have this PROBLEM in the village too.

Have you seen any dog walkers that do not pick up after their dog? If so make yourself known to them, but not if you think they might retaliate. Here is a poem supplied by a local resident .....

When you visit St Martins, please don't look around,

Keep your eyes firmly fixed upon the ground,

It could be on the footpath, It could be in the grass,

It could be that brown horrible stuff, that came from that dog's.....



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Supporting St Martins Centre

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Camp skills day was held in Shrewsbury and was attended by Brown Owl Megan Swale, Lily Waring, Jasmine Ford and Sophie Lee-Trowell.

After a poor start to the day a new venue was found and the equipment got out. The girls had to put up 3 different sized tents one of which was a toilet tent.

Lots of giggling going on inside this tent.

They learnt how to make camp gadgets like wash stands, fitting a bowl inside them. We talked about how to set up a cooks tent and store the food supplies safe from animals, such as squirrels (and sleep walking Brownies).

They had to roll and lay out their beds, making them water tight and as small to carry as possible.

The part we all looked forward to was the lighting of the camp fire and cooking marshmallows. Yummy!



The camping skills will be much need and practiced as the girls move on to Guides.

It was a lovely day keeping dry for us, well done girls.

Brownies have been invited to a Pizza in the Grounds of Attingham Park on 27th June. This is an Italian International theme Day where the girls will be able to experience culture, foods and craft whilst having fun.

---

## Magic Pills: Part 4

I've missed my "magic pills friend" over recent weeks but was very pleased to see him out again one evening quite recently. He demonstrated very well the next stage in the NHS guidance "Five steps to well being", namely "**Be aware of yourself and the world**".

Although he has not been so well recently he was out and about, walking the lanes, appreciating the wonderful blossom we have at the moment but also had some thoughts about the election result (haven't we all?). We stopped to chat. It was wonderful to see him up and about again. As he says "You've got to keep going". Very true, but he manages it with a smile and is always positive. He's keeping himself as well as possible. Appreciating our surroundings and looking out instead of in helps put things into perspective.

On the other hand, personally, I'm in need of magic pills as I managed to get lost and injure myself recently whilst training for a run. Spare a thought for the doctor who is trying to heal himself! Ah well – can't get it right all the time.



# St Martins Guides

The Guides started the year with a weekend away at Lyneal Activity Centre organised by Megan. Individual Guides have been working towards interest badges such as the Sport, Chocolate and Cooks badges .

The nights when we sampled their culinary efforts were particularly enjoyable. We have three Guides who are working hard towards their Baden Powell awards and they have been leading other activities as part of that challenge such as Parachute games and thinking about disability awareness.

As we will be camping in the next 3 months, we have been spending some evenings putting up tents and seeing that they are ready for use and that they have all their tent pegs.

Three guides are preparing to take their Camp Permit Challenge so they are busy organising a camping weekend.

The Chapel garden as well as having tents put up in them saw the Guides taking part in 'Wellie Wanging' - seeing how far they could throw a wellington boot. This is part of Shropshire summer outdoor challenge 'Boots, Bikes and Boats'. Thankfully no wellington boots landed in anyone's garden.

The highlight of this summer will be taking part in the Linx 2015 Shropshire and Guide camp in Shrewsbury which many of the Guides will be attending. They will take part in activities such as shooting, pioneering and archery, as well as enjoying traditional camping.





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I am also a Balmain Hair extension specialist. I offer all hairdressing services from dry cuts to colour correction with prices starting from £5.

**Opening times:-**

**Tues & Thurs 9-5    Fri 9-7    Sat 9-3**

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# FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS

## EXPLORING IFTON MEADOWS



Many visitors to Ifton Meadows start at the main/colliery entrance and walk up to the mosaic. They then make a circuit of some sort. For a change, why not go to the bungalow/railway entrance, where you will find yourself at the top of Price's Dingle.

We don't know how it got its name, but it is a delightful area at any season. The top of the Dingle has been shaped by man, with the stream arriving through an underground pipe. The water flows along a conduit before plunging down a concrete watercourse which was established after a land slip. At the bottom of the waterfall the stream meets up with its original course – the way it used to be before the spoil heap from the mine forced it to be altered.

The Dingle, sometimes referred to by local children as Pixie Wood, is designated as an area of semi-ancient woodland. There is a wide variety of trees, some of which indicate that this is an ancient woodland. The existing trees were augmented some years ago to conserve the woodland and prevent the spread of invasive species such as sycamore. The boardwalks have been installed over the last few years with the help of grants and Shropshire Council. These have greatly improved the pathway and Friends help to keep the gulleys and drainage pipes clear of mud and leaves.

Further down the Dingle the wild flowers become evident. Snowdrops are the earliest in the year, then as they begin to die back celandines and a bank of wood anemones (windflowers) appear. In April/May a carpet of bluebells come into flower, closely followed by wild garlic. The scent of this can be rather overpowering when it is in full bloom but it is a lovely site to see. Smaller patches of other flowers appear throughout the summer and in autumn fungi may be seen on old logs.

Do enjoy a walk through the Dingle, although it is now too late in the year to see the daffodils we planted near the top. These are native species (Tenby lily and wild British) and should naturalise well in the future. All planting undertaken on site is of native species in keeping with the sites role as a Local Nature Reserve.

If you do visit, please remember that no cycling is allowed, either in the Dingle or anywhere else on the Meadows.

Diary dates: Green Gym/workdays -

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June , 12<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> August - 1.30p.m. at Colliery entrance.

Meetings at St.Martins Centre - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> August - 7.30 p.m.

All welcome to either meetings or Green Gym/workdays.

May 2015

## St. Martin's Village F.C.

would like to thank everyone for all their support as the season comes to an end. The Village Football team started it's first season in the Mercian Regional Football League with a bit of a rocky start, with a few big defeats and not only that but the Manager himself stepping down in October. Everyone at the club pulled together to keep the new club afloat while a new manager was appointed.

Steve McGowan was appointed as the new manager in October with a number of others helping to create a strong committee. The club then started to go from strength both on and off the pitch. After having lost a few more games things started to turn around for Steve, with new signings of local players coming into the squad. The team started to bond and things began to happen on the pitch as a team effort.

Finishing in sixth place in the Village's first season reflects how hard all the players have worked throughout the season to create a strong platform for them to build on next season with a possible title push. We look forward to your continued support for 2015-2016 next season.



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*Proprietor: Lance Collings*

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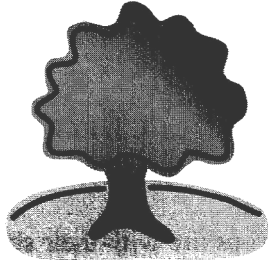
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## Len's Plaice

### Opening Times

	Lunch	Evenings
Mon	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
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**



## April Meeting

Our President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone to our April meeting and a thank you letter from Derwen College was read. Mrs Alice Wilding gave a very interesting report on her course at Denman College on Quilting which she successfully applied for as a first timer bursary. She said food, accommodation and the whole experience was excellent and she would recommend anyone to go on a course. After various upcoming events were discussed, a vote was taken on how our delegate Shirley Willis should vote on our behalf on the resolution at the Annual Meeting on 4th June 2015. Members attending the Annual Meeting at the Theatre Severn on 6th May were given their tickets. After everyone had read the letter about the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, to which only 1 member from each W.I. may attend, all those interested put their names forward into a draw. The lucky ladies' name that was drawn out was Mrs Ann Sadler who was extremely happy and will now attend on 2nd June. The remaining problem for her is "What To Wear" and I am sure she will enjoy solving the problem! Our speaker for the evening was Marcia Meredith on creative folding. After telling us how she got interested in this art she gave us all a book to fold and we all made a paper hedgehog. Her instructions were easy to understand and before long we were all folding and gluing. We all made very passable hedgehogs, and had a lovely time doing it too. She was thanked by Alice Wilding. The winner of our competition of flowers in a jam jar was won by Shirley Willis, 2nd Alice Wilding, 3rd was Ann Sadler. The exhibition of a favourite book was won by Shirley Willis, 2nd Isobel Banham and 3rd Alice Wilding.

## May Meeting

At our meeting on the 5th May Shirley Willis welcomed everyone. She went through the News Letter highlighting the various events available. The Shrewsbury Flower Show schedule was made available to anyone interested. Myfanwy took names of members for our August outing. Members who had won trophies were asked to bring them back next month for inspection with a view to replacing them if necessary. Our Autumn Show schedule was distributed. Angela Ree was congratulated on being selected for her community work to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May. Our speakers for the evening were Pam & Len Watkins giving a talk and showing pictures and artifacts of their "Life on the Road" in a Gypsy horsedrawn wagon. A fascinating and amazing insight into a now almost forgotten way of life. They were thanked by Pam Doyle. The competition of a hand made piece of jewellery was won by Rita Jowett, joint 2nd was Alice Wilding and Myfanwy Dulson, joint 3rd was Debbie Shaw and Shirley Willis. The exhibition of a glass paper weight was won by Debbie Shaw, 2nd Shiela Buchanan 3rd Barbara Aston. June 2nd our speaker will be Dorothy Nicholle, her talk entitled "Don't you know there's a war on?" New members and visitors are always welcome and we meet at 7.30 pm at the Ifton Miners Institute the 1st Tuesday of the month.



## Three Parishes Big Local May 2015

**Our BIG headlines this month are that our two grants programmes have attracted lots of interest and that our Chairman, Nick Heard, was invited to speak about our Carshare scheme at a regional Big Local event in Birmingham.**

Since its launch in March, we have received a number of enquiries and one application for our BIG Grants Scheme, which has grants of between £500 and £5000 available for individuals and groups. The projects that have been discussed since the launch tackle transport and tourism issues but funding from the BIG Grants Scheme could be used towards many different types of projects. More information is available on our website or by contacting the Big Local Co-ordinator.



There have been a large number of Community Chest applications in recent months and we have approved grants for many different projects, ranging from improvements to community buildings to supporting sports and dance projects. The groups that have received grants in March and April include Weston Rhyn Singers, St Martins Centre, Croesoswallt Archers, Border Counties School of Dance and Weston Rhyn Trust. Our Community Chest fund still has grants of

up to £500 available. Please contact us for more information.

We launched the Three Parishes Big Local section of Shropshire Council's car sharing scheme website last November. Since then we have been working with the Highways Department to develop signs to promote car sharing and we hope that these will be installed on local routes very soon. You can find out more information about the car share scheme and sign up at [www.shropshare.co.uk](http://www.shropshare.co.uk). Three Parishes Big Local is one of the first Big Local areas to launch a car share scheme and our Chairman, Nick Heard, was invited to speak at an event in Birmingham that was attended by representatives from other Big Local areas. Nick spoke about the background information from the Three Parishes Big Local consultation that led to Car sharing being proposed as one of the projects, and the way in which we have put the project into action.



Our first **FREE BASIC FIRST AID COURSE** has been arranged for 14<sup>th</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2pm – 4pm at St Martins Centre. Open to all residents of the three villages, this 4 hour course has limited places, so please contact us as soon as possible if you would like to reserve a place. We hope to arrange more courses if enough people are interested - on days and at times

that will suit as many people as possible. Again, please let us know if you would like to be kept informed of future courses.

In partnership with Three Parishes Big Local, The **FAIRshare Credit Union** service point is open every Tuesday from 9:30am to 11:30am at St Martins Centre. Since the service was launched in March, FAIRshare have supported a number of local residents and community groups with savings accounts and loans. The weekly service point is an opportunity for anyone to come along and find out more about **FAIRshare's** affordable loans, budgeting support, debt advice signposting and information about saving regularly. No appointment is necessary.

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>
Follow us on twitter: 3PBigLocal	Like our facebook page: 3PBigLocal



Big Get Together at St Martins Sports Hall May 16th 2015

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