

Canal Towpath Action Group

One of the good things about living in St Martins is that we are surrounded by beautiful countryside which is great for walking. One of the best walks is along the canal, the Shropshire Union Canal makes up the southern boundary of our parish. Known in local parlance as 'the cut', it was dug by navvies over 200yrs ago, it was then the modern motorway, an efficient means of transporting all manner of goods and materials with horse drawn barges. It was the link between the Midlands and the Shropshire plain and North Wales.



Now the brightly painted barges are just used for leisure, mainly townsfolk getting away from the noise and fumes of the city to enjoy the peace and tranquillity, lovely scenery and wildlife as they cruise quietly along the canal. We are so fortunate to live right here to enjoy it.

The good thing about walking on the canal is that it's on the level if you are bothered about hills. The trouble is that from Moors Bridge west as far as Poachers at Gledrid the surface is anything but level, it's very bumpy and muddy in places, not very good if you are a little old or infirm. So we have formed a group called the Towpath Action Group to set about getting a decent surface on it. We want a level gravelled path suitable for everyone to enjoy, whether walking, running, cycling, or using wheelchairs or pushchairs. It could also be a good means of getting to places like Lion Quays and Poachers for work or leisure, and for visitors to reach our villages.

We have approached the trust that runs the canal, the Canal and Rivers Trust, and they have adopted it as a project.

They are applying for grants from the 3 Parishes Big Local, a fund which is set up to improve amenities in our area, and also various other organisations. The path is already used by many people and we hope when this work is completed it will be accessible to more in both summer and winter.

Ron Jones



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Answers from page 13

1. Stuart Broad
2. Tram
3. Sturgeon
4. London's Burning
5. Baked Alaska
6. Van Gogh
7. Ethiopia
8. Stoat
9. Chris Froome
10. Zach Johnson

Food For Thought



Having had the occasion to visit The Red Lion, Ellesmere for drinks only, I happened to peruse the Menu. I also noticed the food being served. It was well presented and the prices looked very reasonable, which was surprising as Ellesmere is very 'touristy'. The beer was excellent. I actually had Wainwright bitter.

So with this in mind we decided to give it a try. On my previous visit I had been advised by the Manager to book a table as they get very busy. We booked a table for 7pm. We arrived at 6.45pm. Whilst at the bar we heard somebody ask for a table. They were told they were full up until 8.45pm. Just as well we booked.

So to the Menu. My wife chose breaded chicken fillets with sweet chilli sauce, while I had mushrooms on garlic bread with Cajun sauce. Both were very generous portions. In fact I had to help my wife out with hers. We followed up with fish pie for my wife which contained at least four types of fish in quite large chunks. I had a sizzling platter of chicken, king prawns and steak, again a very good portion. All the food was served on hot plates which really is a must for us. We both had dessert, one banana waffle and one portion of cheesecake. We don't usually eat this much, but we had been out all day and hadn't eaten.

The whole experience was really worthwhile and only cost £37.00 including drinks. We will return!
The Village Life Foodsmith

Condolences

A line drawing of an angel with large, feathered wings, wearing a long, flowing robe. The angel's hands are outstretched. The drawing is positioned below the word 'Condolences' which is written in a decorative, cursive font. The entire graphic is enclosed in a rectangular border with a decorative flourish in the top-left corner.

Hair by Naomi

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St Martins Centre

Family Night Out

Saturday October 3rd

Entertainment by

Dave Lloyd

Doors Open 6:30pm for a 7pm start

£3 per Adult £1 per Child under 12 (Under 5's FREE)

Food and Bar Available



Valuation Day

with

Christina Trevanion

From Flog It, Bargain Hunt, Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is, etc.

Thursday 19th November

10am - 12:30pm

Maximum 3 items per person £3 per item

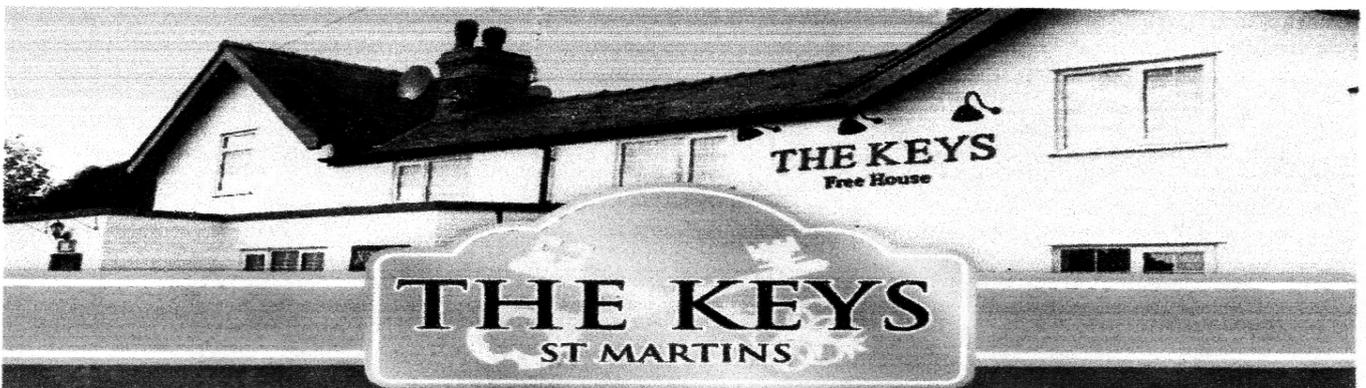
POOL

Michael and Christopher Smout, sons of the late Joseph Smout, represented Wales in a recent international pool competition held in Killarney, Southern Ireland. They were part of the Welsh team who for the second year running won the Home Nations B Section.

Michael narrowly lost one game 4-5 to a former Northern Ireland Amateur World Snooker Champion but gained revenge in the team final.

Well done lads!!

Michael & Christopher both play for The Keys at St. Martins



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		

What's on in October!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Sat 3rd	Family Night Out	St Martins Centre	6.30pm
Sun 4th	HARVEST FESTIVAL	St Martins Parish Church	10.30am
Mon 5th	Harvest FISH and CHIP SUPPER RSVP.		6:30pm
Tues 6 th	WI. Penny Vigoe "Christmas Crackers"	Ifton Miners Institute Lounge	7.30pm
Wed 7th	Alpha Course	St Martins Parish Church	7.45pm
Thurs 8th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7.00pm
Sun 11 th	Battle of the Conkers,	Chirk Castle	11.00am – 4.00pm
Wed 21 st	Autumn colour walk with the gardeners	Chirk Castle	2.00pm
Sat 24 th	Halloween Spectacular,	Park Hall Farm	4pm
Sun 25th	Halloween Afternoon Event	Whittington Castle	
Wed/Thurs 28th/29th	Ghost Tours of the Castle	Whittington Castle	
Fri 30th	Children's Halloween Party £1 Entry (Adults Free)	Ifton Miners Institute	7pm
Sat 31st	Halloween Evening Event	Whittington Castle	
Sat 31 st	Castle of Mysteries,	Chirk Castle	11.00am – 4.00pm
Sat 31 st	Adults Halloween Party with Neil Rheade's Disco, Fancy Dress Optional, Free Admission	Ifton Miners Institute	8pm

What's on in November!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Tues 3 rd	WI. Summer Wynne "Making Christmas "Wreaths"	Ifton Miners Institute Lounge	7.30pm
Thurs 12th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7.00pm
Sat 14th	Christmas Craft Fayre	St Mary Parish Church	
Sun 15th	Christmas Craft Event	Whittington Castle	
Thurs 19th	Valuation Day with Christina Trevanion	St Martins Centre	10.30
Wed 25 th	Ramble with the rangers,	Chirk Castle	1pm
Sat 28 th	The Shropshire Santa Experience,	Park Hall Farm	3.30pm

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

Friday November 13th 2015.

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



Start of Term

Pupils at St Martins School returned from the summer holiday on Tuesday 8th September. The times of the school day have been changed to allow primary pupils to have an earlier finish. Times are now as follows:-



	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Start Time:	8.50am	9.00am
Break:	10.40am – 10.55am	11.20am – 11.40am
Lunch:	12.10pm – 1.10pm	1.40pm – 2.20pm
Finish:	2.55pm/3.00pm	3.25pm

Healthy Eating

As part of a healthy eating project pupils are encouraged to bring a healthy snack in for playtimes.

Year 6 Residential

Year 6 pupils have just returned from 3 days at Stottesdon in South Shropshire. Whilst they were there they took part in a range of outdoor activities. Pupils and staff enjoyed the visit very much. The school have been visiting Stottesdon for over 10 years now.

Chester Zoo

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 will be visiting Chester Zoo on Wednesday 24 September as part of their project on Rain Forests.

Meet & Greet

Parents are invited into school next week to meet their child's class teacher to find out about class routines and expectations.

Assemblies

Rev. Jermy visited school to talk about Harvest around the world.





Rainbows



The Rainbows spent an evening cooking over a campfire in the Brownie garden.

They gathering wood and enjoyed melting their marshmallows on sticks over the fire.

The girls then placed them between two biscuits.

The girls enjoyed the evening and loved the yummy biscuits.



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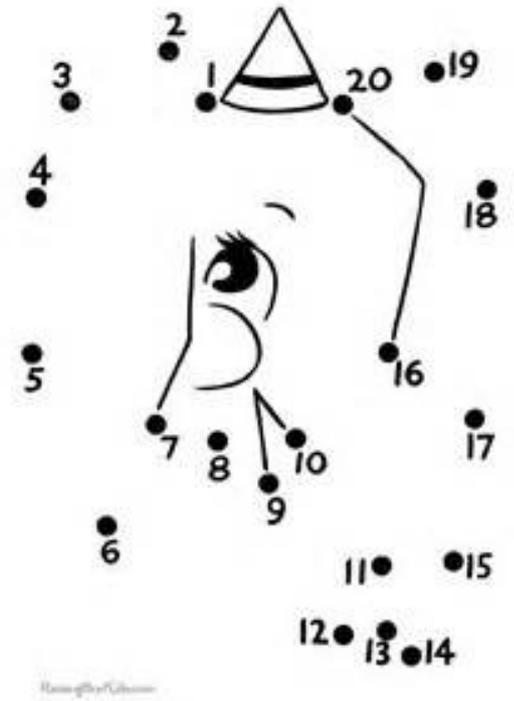
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Follow the numbers



Here's a great picture for you to colour

Den Baines -

The Pioneering Spirit

If you go down Clarke's Lane or along past the industrial estate that was once Ifton Colliery you will come to Pentre Nursery, the home of Den and Sheila Baines. The journey through life that has brought Den to this lovely place is one of admirable variety, diversions, setback, recovery from setback and satisfying achievement. Den, son of the Training Officer at Ifton pit, his first years were during the Second World War. At birth he weighed 12 pounds. The myth is that it was not the midwife who was in attendance, it was McAlpine's, the contractors. He went from Ifton School to go to Technical College in Oswestry, a good place for a boy with instinctive practical skills. He left the college at 15 and did what many in St. Martin's did then, he went down the pit, and did a range of jobs, happily enough for seven years till he decided that the air above the ground summoned enough to buy a milk round. He remembers the pit for the camaraderie, the mutual dependence and the colleagues from all over the place: local men, Welshmen, men from Staffordshire, Lancashire, Scotland, Germany, Italy and Poland, the last three mostly those who stayed behind from their time at Bank Top camp.



Milk then, like now, was delivered from 2.30 till 9 am, which left time for the jobbing side of Den's person to flourish, a chance to accumulate enough capital to buy the garage at the western end of St. Martin's some two years later, the milk round having been sold to a man from Chirk. His partner in the garage business was his brother, Bob, also the mechanic, and Den did what he describes as 'generally messing about', turning his hand to the myriad tasks that garage work generates. Then recessionary times brought an end to the garage and Den and another partner bought a digger and began landscaping, ground-work, and digging foundations. Simultaneously he was doing general building work, joinery, building sheds, stables, bird tables and so on. I cannot imagine that Den's life was immersed in boring routine! And during this time, his work taking him further afield, he went to Burton-on-Trent, and there met Sheila, his wife now of 47 years. She embraced happily the move from urban, brewery town to rural Shropshire.

Both Den and Sheila, not initially instinctive gardeners themselves, were the children of keen gardeners, and so enough rubbed off on them for the hobby of gardening to begin the process that led eventually to the development of the nursery that is now at Pentre. Before this, however, when they went to live in the house by the garage, the garden, much smaller than their current one, was divided into two plots, one for Sheila, one for Den. The word was that roses were delivered for Sheila and ready mix concrete for Den. He seems to have found his other self since!

Continued on page 27

Continued from page 26

That's the bare bones of the story. In the telling it says something about the man and his wife and he speaks of the enjoyment he has had in all he has done and talking to him the 'can-do' spirit is so evident. His innate skills and curiosity enabled him to watch bricklayers, plasterers, joiners and others and always be able to say to himself, 'I can do that.' He would not carry this as far as taking on the more specialised, hazardous work that electricians and plumbers do.

Sheila and Den's home, the garden, the nursery, its buildings are all living monuments to their knowledge, skills, application and commitment. The nursery evolved from their hobby, sowing and harvesting vegetables, initially giving away produce and then realising that what they produced could



be a source of income. The house was extended by Den to accommodate parents and then for their own daughter and her family. The whole site feels harmonious and fruitful. For the likes of me, for whom the emergence of a well-constructed edifice from the hands of a man like Den seems something of a miracle, it is strange to talk with him and hear him say that what he has to tell is of not much account. His kind of practicality, the energy, the refusal of Sheila and him ever to be daunted are precious. Having spent time with them learning about their journey leads me to the kind of conclusion that I have had about all those I have written about for Village Life.

There is a fuller story to be told. St. Martin's is a rich source.

Don Borland

Cedar Close Community Room

Weekly Activities

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