

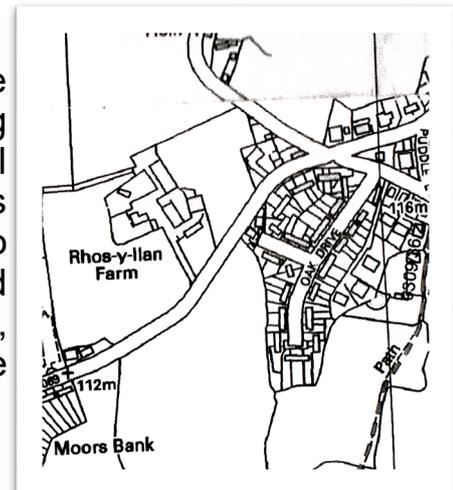
Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

In the Parish Council report in this issue you will see news of an exciting new development at Rhosyllan Farm for 80 homes together with some office space and a recreation area including sports pitches and changing facilities. Although this new application is only at the outline stage and so is still some years away from fruition, a tremendous amount of work needs to be done to plan what exactly needs to be provided, what it is likely to cost and how it can be paid for.

To make sure that all preparations are made in good time, a working group will be set up to investigate and identify what St Martins needs and wants, whether that is just proper football facilities to enable our local teams to return to play in their home village or whether it includes provision of a cricket pitch, or even – at long last – a home for a full multi-use games area (known as a MUGA). There is also the need to identify how the new recreation field should be managed and how the ongoing cost of that is to be met.

The working group will report back to the Parish Council Recreation Services Committee, so if you – or your organisation – has an interest in helping to shape the plans, please contact our Parish Clerk Edward Davies.

Other local developments are well under way, and while we have had a new volunteer to deliver to the new homes being built for the Wrekin Housing Trust (behind Stans), we will very soon need someone to deliver to the 20 new homes about to be occupied at the Irvine Gardens site – will you do it, or do you know someone who might? You can either send a message by email to stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com, contact me by phone (on 01691 770677), or drop the information into the Centre.



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
by no later than Friday 15th January 2016**

.....

Disclaimer: Whilst we make every attempt to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained in these pages, errors may occur. Village Life Magazine will not be held responsible for loss, however arising, from the use of or reliance on this information. The full text of this disclaimer can be found on

www.stmartins-online.org.uk/villagelife

Parish Council

From the Chair

Hello Everyone.

What's new in the village, yes, you're right. There is a new Bus Shelter at Oak Drive. It's in a place that does not intrude on properties facing Overton Road and where there is a view of an approaching bus. I do hope the perch bar will help rest the legs while waiting for a bus. We will try to get a timetable for it as soon as possible.



Irvine Gardens

You may have noticed that a hedge has been removed and replaced by railings and gates with new hedge plantings at the housing development next to the Keys. It all looks very tidy but why did the hedge have to go? The developer, Pickstock Homes Ltd, asked their landscape consultant about the viability of the hedge and he advised that the old hedge 'is badly compromised, being very thin, with a number of gaps'. Perhaps not the best of decisions from our point of view but the hedge from the new opening up to Garden Village and the one along the boundary to Garden Village will be staying, although there will be 2 openings to allow pedestrian access on to the main road. Several Councillors visited the Show House which I have to say is very impressive. Your Council will be keeping a close eye on the development to ensure current plans are carried forward.

Memorial Bench at the former Ifton Heath School

I have been asked about the Memorial Seat dedicated to David Evans, a former Headteacher of the school. St Martins School, the former Pageant Committee and the Parish Council are talking about how to best deal with the seat. We are all aware that a new site needs to be found and the seat moved before the site is sold. I will let you know when the decision is made.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sue Schofield
Chair of St Martins Parish Council

Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

The October meeting was held in The Community Centre St Martins.

The Chairman welcomed Chris Fisher the new Shropshire Council Highways Manager for our area to meet Members of the Parish Council. Chris said he had only taken over from Steve Oakley two weeks ago. He had previously been based at the Ludlow depot but welcomed the new challenge in this area. Main issues always seem to be pot holes, overhanging hedges and tree branches but lack of Shropshire Council finances to carry out every fault reported. He would be working closely with Dave Gradwell, Shropshire Council's Area Traffic Engineer for this area, the Police and the Parish Clerk and arrange regular meetings so that the Parish Council are up-to-date on reported problems. Members pointed out a number of issues that had been outstanding for some time. Chris agreed to meet the Parish Clerk as soon as possible so that he was up to speed on these issues.

As regards speeding issues Sgt Kate Le'Clere from Oswestry Station had reported that she has put in a 'bid' for a Community Speed Watch for St. Martins and also Gobowen. Initially there was funding for 12 schemes across the force which was split between the 3 counties with there being 4 for each county. In Shropshire there were close to 30 bids for the 4 schemes. There has since been more funding for further schemes and we are currently on a waiting list. As part of that process she has managed to secure some traffic monitoring for both villages which they are currently waiting for and she has been told around 5 weeks. The monitoring will last 7 days and will be covert so will show a true reflection of the actual speed through the village. This is better than the police being there with the radar gun because everyone slows down before they see the police, which is great from a safety point of view but not useful when collecting data to show a speeding problem. If the monitoring shows a significant speeding issue then they may get bumped further up the list or further down if it's shown not to be as bad as other areas bidding. She has discussed the possibility of there being a shared scheme between St Martins and Gobowen to help us get something quicker.

The Chairman reported on the latest discussions on the development at Irvine Gardens following a meeting with Nick Scott from J. Ross Developments Ltd. A number of issues were raised at that meeting which the parish council have requested clarification on. These included the hedge from the site entrance to Garden Village will remain, be maintained, and have a covenant on it that it will not

<u>Current Parish Councillors</u>	
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
Duncan Laing	07702 991 845
Brian Latham	01691 772890
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
Lesley-Anne Roberts	01691 776438
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

Please call or email me if you have any queries

Tel 07776 173678 Email: steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk

Dear all.

Winter is now upon us, and that brings more pressure on Shropshire Council. Hoping the snow keeps away, the leaves are brushed away and pot holes don't appear but in the real world that won't be the case, please update me with any concerns during this time. We have great pressures with over £44m worth of extra cuts from central Government making very testing times, there will be questions on line for one and all in Shropshire called the Big Conversation. Please get involved and please give us your views. I'm sure you will all join me in sending thoughts at this time to the people of France and most especially to those living and working in the city of Paris itself. Also I've been asked if we are doing anything in Shropshire about the migrants from Syria - we have a cross party committee looking at what can be done in the County and I will report back to you when a decision has been made.

I would also like to thank the ever growing number of people who attended this year's remembrance parade .

Steve Davenport

Continued from page 3

be removed except for the two small gaps for pedestrian access as per agreed plans. The entire length of the hedge from the main road all along its boundary with Garden Village will remain and also have a covenant on this. They establish where the surface water from Garden Village goes. All street lighting will be to LED standard. If Shropshire Council are not going to adopt the Public Open Spaces (POS) sites but a management company will, what contingency plans are in place should they pull out after a number of years.

A new bus shelter has been installed in Oak Drive.

The Parish Council were asked to consider an appropriate name for the only street on the new development west of Cottage Lane. Orchard Close was proposed and has been accepted by Shropshire Council.

Various planning applications were considered on which the Parish Council made no comment.

They did agree to support an outline application (access for approval) for mixed use development to include residential (up to 80 dwellings); office block; retention of Farmhouse; sports pitches and changing facilities; public open space; landscaping and supporting infrastructure; associated vehicular access (from B5069); improved pedestrian/cycle links to St Martins School; demolition of existing agricultural outbuildings on land at Rhosyllan Farm, Overton Road, St Martins.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 10th December 2015 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre, St Martins.

Edward Davies Fellow ILCM – St Martins Parish Clerk.

St. Martins Parish Church.

The Benefice of St. Martins and Weston Rhyn.

Church Website: www.stmartinsparish.co.uk
Contact Revd Stuart Jermy - sjvicar@btinternet.com;
Tel:778 468; text 07766 255436



Christmas Services at St. Martins Parish Church

You and your family are warmly invited to our **Christmas services**. Details below.

Sunday 13th Dec	3:30pm	St. Martins Church Carol Service Telling the Christmas Story with traditional carols and readings. followed by mulled wine mince pies
Sunday 20th Dec	3.30pm	Christingle and Carols round the Crib Short service with candle Christingles given out and a very special visitor! Great for all the family. Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.
24th Dec	11.15pm	Candlelit Christmas Eve Midnight Service A candlelit Carol service with Communion.
25th Dec	9.30am	Christmas Day Family Communion A family service celebrating the birth of Christ, with communion.

A favourite Christmas story of mine goes like this. (Apologies if you have heard me use it before).

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, as the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers, the younger one began praying at the top of his lungs: "I pray for a new bicycle! I pray for a new Xbox*! I pray for some new Star Wars Lego!

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger boy and said, "why are you shouting your prayers? God is not deaf."

To which the little brother replied, "no, but Grandma is!"

At Christmas we are invited to come to God like little children with faith that we will be heard as we bring our deepest longings to him. God is not deaf !

Take time out in the busyness to join us and to ask him for a present this Christmas – the gift of His presence. He knows our struggles and longs to invited to help us through them.

*How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.*

May the blessings of heaven fill your homes and your hearts this Christmas, bringing his peace and joy to you and those you share this holy-day with.

Hope to see you sometime.

Revd. Stuart Jermy.

*other game consoles are available!

Wish You a Wonderful Christmas

LETTERS FROM YOU

This letter is from a 90+ year old lady who has lived in the village for over 50 years.

Thanks for the Bus Shelter

May I thank all concerned for the new Bus Shelter at Oak Drive, St Martins which was much needed. It's lovely so I ask the younger generation if they will please help keep it this way. They cost a lot of money to replace and that comes from people who have worked hard all their lives and the people who still do go to work,

I wish the younger people a long life like I have had, so please help us to keep these shelters as when you get older you won't have one and standing out in all weathers is not nice, so it's a case of if you abuse it you lose it. So please don't let that happen.

St Martins is a great village to live in, very friendly and it looks so nice and tidy and all the new houses and flower baskets up to Stan's look lovely.

We are so fortunate we have our lovely Church and two Chapels, not many villages can say that. We have the Keys and the Greyhound and Stan's Café, Stan's lovely supermarket with Chemist, Café and all our needs.

We have our Community Officers looking after us, litter picking, how things have changed since I came to live in Oak Drive in 1954 and have lived in the same house ever since. There was no need for litter picking or Community Officers in those days, we all kept our places tidy and we had just one Policeman.

Most of the houses were occupied by men from other countries who had married the local girls but they were all polite, respectful and always worked hard.

We soon all got to know each other and Oak Drive was like one big happy family, it is so sad that other countries can't do the same, live and let live, I never remember anyone saying why should these people live here? So I believe St Martins is a village to be **PROUD** of.

Brenda Rogers

A Big Thank You

There has been a fantastic response to the donation of Milk Bottle Tops for the Guide Dogs. They no longer need them, so I am now going to collect the lids for children's charities, one of them being the QUBE in Oswestry.

So please carry on donating them.

Once again many THANKS for the response given and Best Wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.



Nellie Miller

Hi,

I moved to St Martin's just over a year ago and found the local people very friendly and having the benefit of Stan's too, I was very happy. All was good until last week. I work as a staff nurse at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen and it's very dark some evenings that I arrive home. It was last Wednesday, on my day off, that I realised that 5 of my fence posts had been broken in a mindless act of vandalism. Money is tight with Christmas looming and paying a mortgage on my own and it really upset me that someone or a few, would do such a senseless thing. The community support officer came to see me after I reported it and she was really friendly and reassuring. She was going to follow up her case by door to door visits and I really appreciated this because it was a small crime in the scheme of things. The most amazing thing happened today though! I came home after visiting Stan's and noticed that someone had replaced the posts!!! It's more shocking than the original damage. I'm overwhelmed by this kind act. It's really helped me to believe that for every bad person, there are many more good and caring ones. Thank you so very much to whoever fixed the fence so neatly. I wish I knew who it was to thank them in person.

Kind regards Helen Jones, Mount Villa, Ellesmere Road

An Overwhelming Kind Act



FANTASTIC TREES AT FANTASTIC PRICES!



BUY A FRESH CUT CHRISTMAS TREE
FROM ONLY £17.99 AND RECIEVE A

VOUCHER FOR A

FREE

CHRISTMAS DINNER

IN OUR COFFEE SHOP
(WORTH £6.49) VEGETARIAN
OPTION ALSO AVAILABLE



Stans Superstore, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3AY www.stans.biz 01691 772348



St Martins Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Heather Wilson 01691 769164

Thursday Coffee Mornings 10.30 - 11.30

	6 th December	13 TH December	20 th December	27 th Decem- ber
ST MARTINS 10.00	AWT	Rev Wilson Holy Communion	Rev Wilson 11.00	P Roberts
MOORS 11.00	AWT	Rev Wilson Holy Communion	Rev Wilson 11.00	AWT

	3 rd January	10 th January	17 th January	24 th January	31 st January
ST MARTINS 10.00	AWT	Rev Wilson Holy Communion	Threadgold	Watts	Rev Shoreman
MOORS 11.00	Rev D Watkins	Rev Wilson Holy Communion	Rev Shoreman	Mathews	AWT

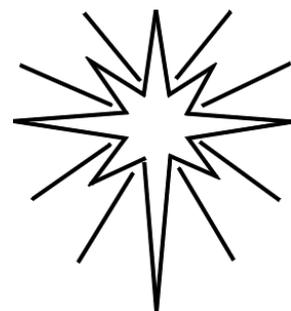
Come & join members of

St Martins, Moors & Chirk Bank Chapels

CAROL SERVICE



Ellesmere Road Chapel



SUNDAY DECEMBER 20TH 11.00am



ST MARTINS COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Well, we've done it ... nearly!

The Big Three Parishes Local has awarded us a match-fund grant which, together with all your generous donations and our bits and bobs of fund raising, will allow us to buy a new CFR car to be based here in St

Martins. Our little red Fabby has hung in there, becoming more and more "tired", accumulating more and more dinks, groaning and squeaking, but only once letting us down on a job. It has been a super little car so the hope is we can replace it with something similar - small, economical and reliable.



There are still some hoops to be jumped through but by the turn of the year, fingers crossed, you will see a newer, fresher CFR car running around.

A big Thank You to the Big Three Parishes Local, the local Masonic lodges, The Keys, Stans, and all of you for everything you have done to help us.

Speaking of cars ...

Winter is coming on. We don't know if it will be hard or mild. The new car won't be an off-road vehicle. I wonder, are there any residents of the village who own four wheeled drives, living not far from we two CFRs, who might be prepared, if there was snow or ice, to ferry us to an emergency if it wouldn't be safe for us to use the CFR car? It would be wonderful if we could compile a list of people who would help us out in such circumstances, prepared to give us their phone number, willing to drop everything to pick us and our equipment up, take us where we need to go and wait (or come back) until we are finished. CFRs in other areas have such schemes (called "Buddies") but we haven't ever tried it. If you might be interested you could contact us through the Village Centre and we can have a chat.

Even more thanks to the owners, staff, customers and guests at The Keys for their generosity on Bonfire Night. A total of £450 was raised, as well as lots of fun, food and fireworks on a filthy wet night. A huge help to us as we look ahead.



Finally, if things remain the same as usual, I anticipate carrying out my 2000th job in November. John has now done over 2600. In his first year, 2001, he did 42 jobs, and in my first year, 2006, I was sent to 56. These days we expect to go to over 300 each per year. How times have changed.

Effie, CFR, St Martins

Christmas Chaos

Spirits run high during the festive period. There are however, are a few issues which need to be brought to light in order to protect the safety of all and ensure everyone enjoys themselves responsibly.

Mini cab safety during the festive period

Minicab operators are now licensed and cannot stop in public places to offer their services. They can only legally carry passengers who have booked them in advance. Always make sure you have a licensed taxi booked and don't walk home.



Top Tips

Carry the telephone number of a known and trusted company.

When booking, ask the name of the driver and the vehicle.

Pre-book through a licensed mini cab company.

Sit in the rear of the vehicle and carry a mobile or safety alarm in your hand.

Crime Prevention

Whilst out Christmas shopping be aware of how much money and what expensive items you are carrying around with you.

Don't leave your drink unattended or accept drinks from somebody you don't know.

Don't leave your bag unattended, carry your purse in an internal pocket and don't carry your PIN number.

Keep presents out of view in the house and in your vehicle



Drinking and Violence

Take care with the amount of alcohol you consume and don't binge drink. It can lead to violent encounters.

In terms of domestic abuse, drink can create an excuse to become violent and an excuse to pretend they can't remember their actions.

Don't share or exchange drinks and if your drink looks different or has moved, don't touch it.

PC 3718 Katie Le'Clere, Safer Neighbourhoods Officer, Oswestry Rural North 07792 774024
101 to report Crime 999 in an emergency.

ELLIS



The Institute of Chimney Sweeps

AGA & RAYBURN FLUES

CCTV INSPECTIONS

CHIMNEY REPAIRS

WOODBURNER SERVICING

CHIMNEY COWLS / TERMINALS

BIRD GUARDS

C SWEEPS LTD

MIKE ELLIS

CHIMNEY SWEEP

EMAIL - elliscsweeps@gmail.com

www.elliscsweeps.co.uk

Parkley House, The Trench

Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9DT



01978 710709 - Tel

07952913440 - Mob

Leslie Younger

SEASONED LOGS FOR SALE

Delivered and placed

Telephone 07947 731995

November Quiz

1. Which British Prime Minister claimed in a 1957 speech most of our people have never had it so good?
2. Which Florida cape, formally known as Cape Kennedy, has been the launch site for many spacecraft?
3. Who was the original voice of Danger Mouse in the Eighties animated series?
4. Where in London can you find Speakers' Corner?
5. Which football manager was sacked as manager of Liverpool after a 1-1 draw with rivals Everton?



6. In which city did the 2015 The Conservative Party conference take place?
7. Steinway & Sons are well known manufactures of which musical instruments?
8. James Bond will drive which Aston Martin model in the new film Spectre?
9. If the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio De Janeiro was a cricket umpire what would he be signalling?
10. Which word beginning with an F describes a witches spiritual companion often a black cat or a toad?

Answers on page 15

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE



What a wonderful turn out on a damp and windy Sunday morning. The service at the War Memorial was lead by Rev. Heather Wilson and Harold Evans read the list of those that gave their lives in both World Wars. Wreaths were laid by Mr Philip Holbourn on behalf of the Parish Council, the Scouts and Guides laid their wreaths followed by the WI, then several members of our community brought crosses to lay in remembrance. The Last Post was played by Jane Goff of Ifton Colliery Band and after the 2 minutes silence she played the Reveille. Scouts and Guides then marched up to Ellesmere Road Chapel. Did anyone notice Major Andrew Sudlow in the assembly?

ST MARTINS CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group continues to meet in the common room at Cedar Close for its Wednesday afternoon meetings where much work is done making knitted or crocheted blankets or garments. Our main aim is to make items for various charities at home and abroad, and for these we supply the yarn which we have available in a range of colours. At times members wish to make things for themselves or their families and they bring their own choice of weight and colours of wools or of other materials if they are not knitting. During the summer we have seen weaving, doll-making and patchwork being made.

The Craft Group also arrange a summer outing and this year we went to Gresford in June to the Quilt and Craft Show held there, and are currently looking forward to a Christmas Lunch which, however, because of our members' outside commitments, will take place in the New Year on 20th January!

*We wish
everyone a Happy
Christmas and
peaceful
New Year.*

TALK ABOUT COINCIDENCES !!

I was fortunate enough to win four tickets to Bangor Racecourse, to be used for any meeting, and deciding to take my daughter and her husband, had to choose a day which both of them could fit in with work commitments. We chose 11th November, which was a fairly fine day fortunately, with seven races to watch.

Imagine my surprise when during the afternoon I saw two familiar faces. The first was the Princess Royal, Princess Anne, who presented the trophies for the main race, the Anne Duchess of Westminster Challenge Cup in her position as President of the Animal Health Trust. She had already attended the Armistice Day Service at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, and then went on to a further charity event for Tenovus in Wrexham, ending the day with a formal dinner in the City of London. A very full day.

The second familiar face was that of a gentleman I had worked for at an estate agents in Wrexham when I first moved to this part of Shropshire in 1977 – 38 years ago!

Quite surprising that we both recognised each other after all that time.
Alice Wilding





1st St Martins Guides

Well, this has been a busy term for 1st St Martins Guides. We've done things I wouldn't have dreamed of doing on my own. I'm Megan Tobijanski and I've been in Guides for three years now! This last term has been amazing!

We have been doing our animal active badge. One of our Guides dad has a

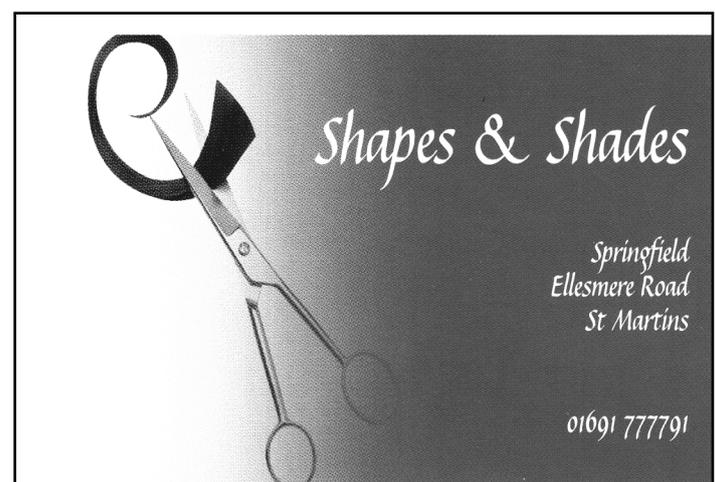
veterinary centre in Ellesmere (Blakemere Veterinary Centre) and we were privileged enough to visit. We looked at x-rays of animals and had to figure out what was wrong with them, that one was a brain tickler, and we had to put stiches into a blanket. We used our imagination and pretended it was an animal! We had a go bandaging up each other's arm and we worked out how much anaesthetic we would have to give to each other to put them to sleep if they were to have an operation and how much fluid they needed to keep them hydrated. That was hard. All the maths. And how could I forget about the blood tests we did. We had to get blood out of a tube using needles, and put it on a microscope slide and we looked at the blood cells. I would like to thank Mr Martin for letting us into his surgery.



A couple of days ago one of our Guides, Drew Mars brought in her pet hedgehog. We had a dedicated evening for her pet and she explained all about her. Her hedgehog (Lola) enjoyed her evening and so did we. The Leaders and Guides all got to hold her. Lola has the cutest little nose and she munches her cat food. Thank you Drew for letting Lola visit us.

On the weekend of the 14th of November we have been invited to go to Telford cinema for a movie sleepover. The Guides are really excited for this trip. We are sleeping in the cinema and having a Costa breakfast the next morning. This is a really nice treat for us.

I have one more thank you to say and that is for our amazing Leaders Mrs Philips, Mrs Lindup and Mrs Arthan, also known as Tarker, Tigger and Mrs Tiggy-Winkle. Without them we wouldn't have Guides. They do so much for us and ask for little in return. Thank you also to the parents who support Guides. Thank you.



Lighting

of the

Christmas Tree

Saturday

12th December

@ 4:30pm

Memorial Garden

St Martins

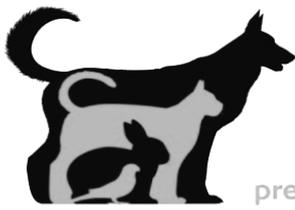
(opposite Stan's)

Carols lead by

Ifton Colliery Band

Hot Drinks Available

WHO WILL SWITCH ON THE LIGHTS THIS YEAR?



st.martins
pharmacy

prescriptions · animal health · medicines · health food
vitamin supplements · homeopathy



01691 778873

stmartins.pharmacy@nhs.net

IS YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IN CONTROL...?

1 in 3 adults in the UK (16 million) has high blood pressure

More than 5 million people don't know they have blood pressure – that's why it's called the SILENT KILLER

People with high blood pressure are 3 times more likely to develop heart disease and strokes, and twice as likely to die from these as people with normal blood pressure



Do you know what your blood pressure is?

Why not pop in for a **FREE** blood pressure check

Please phone 01691 778873 if you require further information

Have you thought
Of making or updating
**YOUR WILL &
LPA?**

Wills £85

Tel. 01691 652233

www.Asset-Wealth-Preservation.co.uk

Dean Lewis

St Martins

PLUMBING&HEATING

Installation & Servicing
Central Heating Systems
Boilers

Bathrooms & Showers
Washing Machines etc
All Work Guaranteed

TEL: 01691 777408

MOBILE: 07808 909482

November Quiz

Answers from page 11

1. Harold Macmillan.
2. Cape Canaveral.
3. David Jason.
4. Hyde Park.
5. Brendan Rodgers.
6. Manchester
7. Pianos.
8. DB 10
9. A wide
10. A familiar.

St Martins Centre

17th of November saw the Annual General Meeting of the St Martins Centre. We heard a lot of good stuff about how well the different users are advancing.

As for the Centre itself, well, our last fund raiser the 'Valuation Day' with Christina Trevanion and Aaron Dean, was an enormous success and the other events, Car Boot and Family Night Out to mention but two, were a real encouragement to us. I am sure you are aware that buildings are always needing maintenance and all donations and money from fund raisers go towards the upkeep of the Centre.

We keep upgrading our equipment and in the last couple of months we have been able to upgrade the cooker and add a dishwasher to the Kitchen, thanks to a grant from Awards For All. We also received a grant from Star Housing Trust to upgrade 6 computers that enable us to run Windows 10, which is making a considerable difference to the delivery of faster internet and overall user speeds.

Our aspiration for next year is to replace the failing wooden retaining wall of the large Shrub bed with a brick/block wall, replacing the small raised planter with a 'Hop Scotch' base, paint the outside of the building and replace the mortared facings of the roof. We also will be looking at a more efficient way to heat the Activity room and any sponsors who might want to donate another seat in the Community Garden.

**THE CENTRE TRUSTEES WISH ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A PEACEFULL NEW YEAR**

St Martins Centre

(Charity Reg. No. 1088872)

Overton Road St Martins SY11 3AY.

Tel: 01691 770204 Email: stmartinscentre@mail.com

Office Open Mon, Tues, Thur, 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.

Staying Safe at Youthie.

The Club:

The St Martins Youth Club meets at The St Martins Centre on Friday evenings (term time only) and caters for young people in year 6 and older. Activities include Pool, Table Tennis, Table Football, Air Hockey, PS3 (FIFA 16), Crafts and cookery. All activities are free with each young person paying £1 as they sign in. All staff are volunteers with any spare cash after paying bills going towards equipment etc. (FIFA 16 cost over £40!).

Safeguarding concerns:

1. The safety of all young people is obviously our priority. All staff at Youthie are volunteers and are DBS checked and supported by Shropshire Youth Association. We will all do our utmost to keep the young people safe in the building BUT we know that some either never come in or leave during the 7.30 – 9.00 session.
2. We have 5 regular unpaid volunteers but not all can attend every week due to work/family commitments so sometimes staff who are present have a dilemma.

Are there enough adults present to keep everyone safe?

Should we close the doors when we reach a certain number?

There is no way in which we would turn young people away on a dark night so we are asking parents/carers to be aware that we may be working extra hard supervising a large number.

3. Is there any way YOU could help. Are you willing to give the "Youthie" some time? Please pop in to see how we are getting on. Perhaps you could help a small group to learn to cook, or another craft? Perhaps you can play Pool or Table Tennis and share your skills? Please please drop in!

*TNS Community
Foundation
Multi Sports Sessions
Every two weeks
As part of St Martins Youth
Club*

*Fusion Arts Oswestry
Saturdays 6.00 – 8.00
PS4, XBOX ONE,
Arts & Crafts
St Martins Centre
£1 entry.*

Scouting for Adventure

Encounters with a Bear, a jamboree, night hikes, chariots and fire; it's been non-stop action for 2nd St Martins Scouts.

Linx 2015

Bear Grylls joined Linx 2015, our jamboree at the West Midlands Showground in July and August where we were shown how to skin and cook a rabbit. Besides the fine dining, there were opportunities to try archery, shooting and a specially installed zip-wire.



The week-long camp was a little wet at times, but it didn't dampen spirits or the campfires!



Chariots and fire

In September we held a parents' day so that mums and dads could see what goes on at Beavers, Cubs and Scouts – and hopefully consider volunteering for the group.

We played 'sharks and fishes' (or tag), built chariots, held races and cooked on the big campfire.

Mum Lorraine Elliott said:

"It's a long time since I did knots and lashing and I had no idea that a chemical in onions helps the root veg to cook more quickly on the fire. You're never too old to learn something new."

Andy Craven, Group Scout Leader said:

“Volunteers make a huge difference to the work we do, it simply wouldn’t happen without them. I hope the mums and dads enjoyed the evening and consider giving a little of their time to help us out.”

Any adult interested in getting involved please contact 07702 216595.

Lofty challenge

Over 30 children joined a sleepover at the Scout hut in September. So what’s the best way to guarantee a good night’s sleep if you’re a leader?

Go on an 8 mile night hike starting at a World Heritage Site 126 feet above the ground. Excited chatter stops for hot soup and chocolate kept the group going. When they finally arrived back at the hut, a film and quiet chatter made for a restful end to the evening and a huge sense of achievement.

Beavers/Cubs meet Mondays at 6pm to 7:30pm;

Scouts meet Wednesdays 7pm to 8:30pm. Contact 07702 216595 if you would like to know more.

Look out for us over Christmas in Stans when we’ll be helping to pack bags to raise vital funds for the group.

Merry Christmas

2nd St Martins Scouts



Condolences

Liz Brown died at home on
Monday 12th October.

Sue Stevens died in the Royal
Shrewsbury Hospital on
Monday 12th October

Travis Stokes died in the
Wrexham Maelor Hospital on
Wednesday 5th November

Len Vernon died in
Meadowbrook on
Sunday 15th November

Our deep commiserations to all the
families.

DEBORAH SHAW

Foot Health Practitioner

I have over 12 years of experience in providing foot care services and am a member of the Accredited Register of Foot Health Practitioners

For a professional and friendly service in the comfort of your own home, helping you with: -

- ◆ **Nail care**
- ◆ **Corns/Hard skin**
- ◆ **Fungal infections / verruca**

Please call me for an appointment:-

01691 777130

What's on in December!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Tues 1st	WI Christmas Party	White Lion Whittington	
Sat 5th	Mark Brown	The Keys St Martins	9pm
Thurs 10th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
Fri 11th	Tilly Swats	The Keys St Martins	9pm
Sat 12th	Motown Night	The Keys St Martins	9pm
Sun 13th	Green GYM	Ifton Meadows	1:30pm
13th-20th	Christmas Grotto and Craft Stalls	Whittington Castle	
Tues 15th	Probus Ellesmere Fun Quiz and Party Night	Comrades Club	10am
Fri 18th	TBA	The Keys St Martins	9pm
Daily 19th – 24th	The Santa Experience	Park Hall Farm <i>(Please Book in advance)</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm
Thurs 24th	Tilly Swats	The Keys St Martins	9pm
Thurs 31st	Tilly Swats	The Keys St Martins	9pm