

Future Content for **Village Life Magazine**

Thanks to all those who have made positive and supportive comments about the first issue of the magazine – but what next has to be the question. Are there any features or topics that you think should be included in future issues, whether on a regular or a one-off basis? For example, this month we have included a short quiz – do you want to see that in every issue, and if so should it be general knowledge or something more specific? What other competitions would you like to see?

The “For Sale” section in the first issue did not get much response – or any further items for inclusion in this second edition – so we have left it out this time. Are we right, or is it a feature you would like to see continue?

Just as important – do you have anything you want to share with the rest of the village, whether it is a story, an account of an actual event, of just something you want to tell us about? Please let us know your views and suggestions by writing to us at St Martins Centre or by email to stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com (and we will be happy to consider letters for publication as well).

John Stevens (Chair of Editorial Committee)

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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 12th September

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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 responsible for loss, however arising, from the use of or reliance in this information. Full text of disclaimer can be found on

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

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

Parish Council

Hello to you all.

I hope that you are enjoying our lovely summer weather.

There are still some disruptions through the village but hopefully coming to an end. The footpaths are being widened to accommodate additional pedestrians going to our 3 to 16 combined school; the drainage systems are being improved, we are having a pedestrian crossing installed, and of course some building works going on at places through the village, the largest currently is at The Bower Farm, a community led scheme. It has been interesting to watch from Stans car park as Welsh Water completed the huge infrastructure underground, and CGL developed above ground. I have been impressed with the consideration for the community while the changes are taking place.

Thank-you to Welsh Water and Shropshire Council for a good job being done.

Thank-you to CGL who have kept a clean and tidy site and tried to minimise disruption.

Thank-you also to CGL who constructed the base for the 3 tier planter.

Broadband improvements are still on track for September/October.

Please would all dog walkers pick up after their dog. There are plenty of bins around the village.

This is my last letter to you as Chairman of St Martins Parish Council, we welcome Sue Schofield as St Martins Parish Chairman 2014/2015. Helen Williams

St Martins Recreation Services Committee

The Parish council has set up a Committee to oversee the provision, development and management of all recreational and play area facilities across the Parish. With a membership made up of 5 Councillors and 5 representatives of clubs and organisations in the village, it will liaise with Shropshire Council and with residents of the various areas of St Martins to ensure that all recreational, play and open space needs are identified and updated on a regular basis.

The initial step at every location will be to seek the views of local residents and potential users to check what is wanted before any proposals are put forward and ahead of any final decisions being taken.

The first areas being looked at are possible facilities for parents and young children at Churchfields (where a survey form has already been distributed), ways in which the land next to the Ellesmere Road chapel might benefit from added equipment or facilities (where a local survey is being planned) and the options for putting some limited multi use games equipment on the Trust land at the Village Centre (subject to space and noise constraints).

If you have any thoughts or views on these issues – or any ideas you think should be considered elsewhere around the village – please let the Parish Council know by contacting the Clerk at edward865davies@btinternet.com

Report from St Martins Parish Council

In June Councillor Helen Williams informed Members that she was finding it difficult to put her full commitment into the position of Chairman and wished to resign from this position. Members said they were very sorry to hear this but were pleased she would continue as a Parish Councillor. Councillor Sue Schofield has now been elected as Chairman of the Parish Council with Councillor Glenn Pennington being elected as Vice Chairman.

The main concern recently has been an application for temporary operation for an exploratory borehole and associated infrastructure on land North West of Brooklands Farm, Dudleston, Ellesmere. St Martins Parish Council totally oppose any extraction in this area on the following grounds; air, water and noise pollution, a real risk of subsidence and multiplicity of sites with heavy volumes of traffic. Questions were raised over how safe this extraction would be. St Martins Parish Council will seek a moratorium on this until such times as more information is available. In any event Shropshire Council should limit the depth of drilling to 600m thus ensuring that the only exploration is for coal methane gas.

A new Recreation Services committee has been formed with members of the parish council and organisations in the parish elected to this body. Apart from looking at what assistance is required in the maintenance and administration of Stan's Field, the committee will look into who owns which sites across the village and will then start a dialogue with Shropshire Council before considering the transfer of any sites from Shropshire Council to the Parish Council. Although Shropshire Council are currently running a play equipment survey for Church Fields which ends on the 18th July 2014, further consultation was required on all other sites. On options for using Section 106 money currently held by Shropshire Council, it was now up to this committee to put forward proposals on where and when we are going to spend any money that is available now and in the future. This committee also needs to consider in general principle how we go forward on all open spaces in the parish.

As work on the new school comes to an end, discussions have been continuing with Shropshire Council over a pedestrian crossing in this area. Although not in the parish council's preferred location, one will be installed just before the garage forecourt entrance.

There will be no meeting of the Parish Council in August. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th September 2014 at The Moors Community Centre.

Edward Davies PILCM

Current Parish Councillors

Ashley Alum	01691 770042
Gordon Fryer	01691 774520
Neil Graham	01691 778427
Emma Harkess	01691 238334
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
Brian Herbert	01691 772647
James Hoos	01691 661218
Alison Kynaston-Jones	01691 777671
Brian Latham	01691 772890
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
John Sands	01691 772394
John Stevens	01691 770677
Sue Schofield	01691 777710
Helen Williams	01691 777561

Shropshire Council

Councillor Steve Davenport

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

Thank-you everyone who contacted me from the previous issue, mainly regarding, roads, paths and hedgerows. All of these issues are currently being addressed. Admittedly the disturbance caused by road works in the village is a headache but is a means to a very important end i.e. main drainage and the safety of pedestrians particularly our school children.

Issues at the fore are Coalbed Methane Extraction (CBM) and my position on this is one against extraction of any kind in this area. There are too many reasons to write in this small article and I believe that are others that have written articles that set out the issues very clearly. I am always open to discussion with all interested parties.

May I wish all who are going away for holidays a great time and those who are not a happy and safe summer break.

Ifton Colliery Band has been Marching its way to Victory

On Friday 13 June the band attended the Whit Friday March in Saddleworth and Tameside

This was the first time the band have entered the event which is made up of 30 villages all hosting contest at the same time. At each venue the band was required to perform a short road march then take to the stage and perform a contest march, then back on the bus and off to the next village.

We managed to take part in six contests and came away with six prizes four 1st places and two 2nd places.

A very good night was had by all the band and the coach is already booked for next year.

Also a big thank you to John and Vicky at the Keys for letting us use their beer garden for marching practice.

In other band news we are pleased to announce the launch of our website Iftoncollieryband.co.uk.

Have you joined the bands 100 club yet? There's still time to sign up!!

To sign up just complete a form (this can be found on the bands notice board in the village centre or via the band s website) and return it by the 1st of September to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

It's hoped to raise enough money to purchase the band a new uniform ahead of the National brass band championship in September where the band are representing the Midlands.



MBE Day at Buckingham Palace



Our day began with a call from Radio Shropshire Breakfast Show. Live on the air!

Taxi to The Palace through the infamous London traffic, glad not me driving. Will we arrive in one piece? Four pieces anyway.

Our approach provided a very impressive view of the gradually enlarging Buckingham Palace. Bumpity bump, it's starting already.

At that time of day and even in the rain there were lots of people about. We were first to our entrance gate but no entry allowed yet.

Eventually, and dripping a bit, we were checked then escorted across the open forecourt. Wanted to whisper and move on tip-toes. We were in awe of the architecture.

Guests and recipients were separated, guests to viewing area in Palace ballroom, recipients to the Green Room where clips were fixed to lapels. 96 recipients gathered there were rehearsed in procedures and protocols then mingled, chatting to whomsoever. Closed circuit TV gave us a view of presentations to earlier receivers from our group.

Cameras everywhere, still and video — some remotely, others manually operated. Large, probably very valuable, oil paintings hung from the very tall walls.

We were to go forward to presentation in 6 groups of 16, each group guided by an equerry. I was in the last group. The procedure was very well organised, evidence of a lot of practice. There are about 27 such ceremonies each year.

Arriving at the presentation area I was paused twice. Firstly at the entrance doorway for a second and then several paces ahead to await announcement of my name. The orchestra up on the balcony played background music.

A tap on my shoulder sent me to approach Princess Anne standing on her dais supported by Beefeaters and Ghurkhas who were ready to pounce at any sign of a false move on my part. At this stage my heart was jumping a lot. I noticed Dorothy, Cerys and Lily sitting in the second row to my right amongst about 290 guests.

Princess Anne had a calming effect as she pinned my medal. Congratulations! I had to remember the correct reply. She asked about my volunteering and commented 'Community Responding is a useful thing to do.'

That part of the process lasted about a minute following which I was able to re-join my family.

Relaxing somewhat we were able to enjoy the impressive sights within the Palace walls with lots of marble, lots of oil paintings, even ceremonially uniformed sentries standing like pillars on the spiral staircases. Not a blink (from them). Unfortunately no photos allowed.

All over, time for a long awaited cuppa. Afternoon Tea near the Ritz met that requirement in a very nice way.

Seems everyone has Afternoon Tea in London. John Roberts

John Roberts was accompanied to Buckingham Palace by his wife Dorothy, his daughter Cerys and his granddaughter Lily



Weston Rhyn • St Martins • Gobowen

It has been a busy few months for the Three Parishes Big Local Partnership and we are making good progress through the final stage of preparation for the £1m Big Lottery investment in our Big Local area. Key events in the last few months have been:

We published "The Community Vision". This document sets out the visions for the future following the consultations that have taken place as part of the Big Local process.

We published "The Community Profile". This document describes our area and is required by Local Trust before we can submit our Community Plan. The Three Parishes Big Local Partnership has been formally endorsed by the Local Trust which was required before we can submit our Community Plan.

The partners have approved a "Community Chest – small grants fund" which is likely to be open for applications in August 2014. We are currently working through the details of the grant applications and approvals process.

We are still on target to submit our Community Plan to Local Trust by the end of July and expect to be able to start investing the £1m in the autumn of this year. We have been out and about in the community, attending the All Saints Church Summer Fete in Gobowen and the Big Tea Party in Chirk Bank.

We will be at Grow It, Make It, Show It in St Martins in September. We would like to attend as many events in the three villages as we can, to continue to spread the word about Big Local and to get feedback from residents about ways that the £1m can be spent. If you are organising an event in St Martins, Weston Rhyn or Gobowen please let the Big Local co-ordinator know – we can also help publicise your event.

For more information, copies of documents mentioned in this article, to keep up to date with our latest news, or if you would like to get involved with Three Parishes Big Local, go to our website www.big-local.org or contact the Big Local Co-ordinator, Bridget Laraway by email at info@big-local.org

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OPEN 9 - 5 EVERYDAY

St. Martins Parish Church.

The Benefice of St. Martins and Weston Rhyn.

Holy Communion Service 9:30 am. 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays.

First Sunday of month 11:00am - Sunday FIRST family worship.

We meet with our sister church in Weston Rhyn for some evening services and other events.

Sunday 3rd August - A service to **Commemorate the start of WW1**. 9:30am

We are planning a **family outing** on August 10th in the afternoon. Please see the church website for more details. Our **next Sunday FIRST** Family Worship Service takes place on the 7th Sept at 11.00am and monthly thereafter. This service is a half hour of music, bible story and prayer. Then afterwards we go into the hall for coffee, cake and some craft activities. Very popular with children of all ages!

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

Also a **new bible study home group** is starting up in the new term. See Church notices for details.

Christenings / Baptisms

It doesn't cost anything for a Christening service and can be done during morning worship or in the afternoon. *It is never too late to get baptised or confirm your own infant baptism. Perhaps God is calling you to do this this year.* Speak to the Vicar if interested.

Weddings

Last month we enjoyed having Tanya Williams and Paul Davies come to church for their wedding. Please contact Revd. Stuart 778 468, if you would like to get married. There are dates available at Christmas time if you fancy a candlelit winter wedding.

The St. Martins FOODBANK is open every week, part of the Oswestry and Borders Foodbank network. **Wednesday - 10:30am -11:30pm** - in the church hall.

The Foodbank Oswestry Centre says: "We need juice, jam, sauces, sponge puddings and milk are always welcome. Also tinned fruit, tinned vegetables and tinned tomatoes."

If you find yourself in difficulty (and it can happen to us all) **and you do not have a foodbank voucher** - please come on a Wednesday and talk to us and we can help.

Other news from the Parish Church.



15 people from Church, aged 10 to 65, walked to the top of Snowdon raising money for the Charlotte Hartey Foundation.

Our Organ has been refurbished and cleaned. Thank you to the church Friends group for paying for this. In July we had a number of events, including church BBQ and a fish and chip supper, quiz and bingo night.

Church Website:

www.stmartinsparish.co.uk

Contact:

Revd Stuart Jermy
sjvicar@btinternet.com;
778 468; text 07766
255436



Church Coffee Morning Tues
10:30am

On Coming to Live in St. Martins

'You'll love it here,' said Annemarie at the checkout in Stan's to my wife Lorna on the day we moved in, 1st March 2013. And Annemarie was right. We do love it. What a lovely thing to say and what a moment to choose to say it! It had taken us over a year to sell our house in Chapel en le Frith in Derbyshire and to secure the purchase of our house here. So the pleasures of anticipation were becoming over ripe. But, why St. Martins? Having identified the Oswestry area as the place to live we came to look at a property over by Selattyn. We found two other properties were worth a look and the first one was in St. Martins, and we did not even know that the village was not a suburb of Oswestry! We viewed the house, looked at each other and said, 'We could live here.' And now we do and in what we hope and pray is a protracted twilight of our lives we have found also, a convenient, well-provided, warm and welcoming community with a clear identity of its own.

So, what have we found? First, the basics: the doctor, the chip shop, the pub, the bus stop and petrol station are four minutes walk from our front door. At the surgery we found them all smiley and helpful. You don't get your fish and chips instantly at Len's Plaice because they take your order as you go in and so you know it really is freshly prepared. At the Keys they serve good food, good beer and they smile and chat. We came also to look for a church where we would feel comfortable and were prepared to sample worship in several churches and chapels around the district. The first sample was St. Martins Parish Church and we didn't go any further. The welcome and the warmth were instant. Then there's Stan's. Annemarie was our introduction and it feels to me that she's not untypical. How can a business on that scale feel so personal? What's more you can find hard goat's cheese at Stan's and an astounding selection of beers! I find the Shropshire accent fascinating. It seems to me to have some Welsh 'sing-song' in it and a softness, a lack of the harshness of some accents, and somehow embodies the spirit of the people.

We have good neighbours and people stop and chat when we are working on the 'miles' of hedge that we have. We have walked and cycled the lanes and discovered Ifton Meadows and Pentre Nursery, a horticultural gold mine. On the bike it's much more forgiving than the terrain around Chapel en le Frith, you can do ten miles without seeing a car on the lanes and you do experience a lot that you would otherwise miss, even the heady perfume from the fields of rapeseed. The corners of the parishes depicted on the cover of this journal are becoming more and more familiar.



So, where's the catch? So far, there isn't one. We've lived long enough to know that nothing's perfect but we also know that you don't look a gift horse in the mouth, that you value well what's valuable and that, as the 16th century poet, Robert Herrick, said, you....

'Gather ye rosebuds while he may.'

Long may St. Martins prosper. It deserves to.

Don Borland



St Martins Methodist Church

Ellesmere Road.

Weekly services are displayed on the notice board.

Coffee morning every Thursday 10.30 – 11.30.

Harvest Service: Sunday September 28th. 10.00

Harvest Supper: Monday September 29th. 6.30

Centenary of Ellesmere Road Chapel building

Sunday October 26th 11.00 followed by celebratory lunch

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Broadband Update from Connecting Shropshire

Connecting Shropshire is a £25m programme to bring fibre broadband to the more rural parts of the Shropshire Council area, where private companies are not going to provide it as part of their commercial plans. The programme has already started to provide people with access to fibre broadband with download speeds of up to 80mbps, about 10x faster than the average for the county as a whole. More than 12,000 homes and businesses across a range of exchange areas, from Albrighton to Bridgnorth and Little Brampton to Pontesbury, are now within reach of the new fibre broadband network that we're building

The good news for the St Martins area is that we expect to be working in the English parts of the Chirk exchange area in the coming weeks, with availability of fibre broadband starting from late autumn. To benefit from this programme, people will need to contact their chosen internet service provider to upgrade to fibre broadband.

Check out our website: www.connectingshropshire.co.uk to sign up to our newsletter, for FAQs and for more information about why faster fibre broadband is important for homes and businesses; alternatively, if you have a query, give us a call on 01743 252003

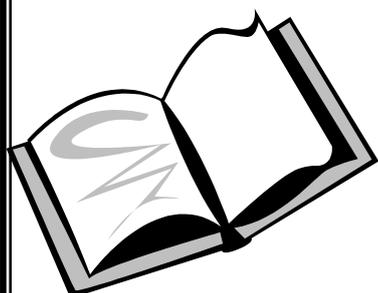


ST MARTINS NOW HAS A BOOK GROUP!

Thanks to the response to my article in the last newsletter we now have a core of 7 people to form our Book Group.

5 of us who were available met informally last Saturday to have a chat about dates to meet and have agreed that we hold an initial meeting at the St Martins Community Centre on **Monday 11th August, starting at between 6.30pm and 7.00pm.**

We will have a list of books on the night, chosen by the members, from which we can select a book to read for the next session.



We would love to have more people interested in joining us so please do come along or if you can't make it this time but would like to read the book for the next session, then please give me a call on **01691 772890** or email me at kathy.latham1946@btinternet.com

Kathy Latham

THE KEYS

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EARLY BIRD MENU MONDAY-FRIDAY



MONDAY-CURRY NIGHT

5pm-8pm

Curry & A Pint £6.50



WEDNESDAY-STEAK NIGHT

5pm-8pm

Rump Steak & A Glass of Wine £12



Tel: 01691 770258 or 07762 139413

Grow It, Make It, Show It

St Martins 2nd Annual Show

**At St Martins Centre
Saturday September 27th 2014**

**Competition Entry 20p
(Children's Competitions Free)**

**Spectators 50p
(Including Free entry to a Draw.
Under 12 years and Exhibitors Free)**

Refreshments & Raffle

Door open for exhibitors 9:00am

Judging 11am – 1 pm

Doors Open to Public 1:30pm

Prize Giving 3pm

**All entries must be booked in on
Friday 26th Sept between 5:30 & 7:30pm**

Below is the list of classes for this year's show. Please remember that you will need to book your entry into the Show on Friday 26th September 2014

<u>Class No</u>	<u>Section A : Vegetables</u>	<u>Class No</u>	<u>Section B : Flowers and Plants</u>
A1.	3 Potatoes	B18.	5 Dahlias Pompom, any size
A2.	4 Runner Beans	B19.	3 Dahlias (decorative)
A3.	3 Onions (10 oz. and under)	B20.	1 Dahlia (large)
A4.	3 Onions (over 10 oz.)	B21.	3 Dahlias (Cactus or semi Cactus)
A5.	6 Shallots	B22.	A specimen HT Rose
A6.	1 Pumpkin	B23.	3 Gladioli
A7.	3 Carrots (with tops trimmed and tied)	B24.	6 Sweet Pea Stems
A8.	3 Beetroot (with tops trimmed and tied)	B25.	1 Vase of flowers (5 stems of 1 variety)
A9.	3 Courgettes (not exceeding 150mm (6 ins))	B26.	1 Vase of mixed flowers (minimum 5 stems)
A10.	1 Marrow or oversized courgette (Heaviest)	B27.	3 Hydrangeas
A11.	1 Cucumber	B28.	A specimen flower of any variety
A12.	Any Brassica	B29.	Pot plant (flowering)
A13.	4 Tomatoes (any variety)	B30.	Pot plant (foliage)
A14.	3 Cooking apples	B31.	1 Cactus or Succulent
A15.	3 Dessert apples	B32.	Fuchsia in any size pot
A16.	3 Any Other Fruit	B33.	Pelargonium (Geranium-upright only)
A17.	A Tray of 4 different kinds of vegetables and/or fruit or a mix		
<u>Class No</u>	<u>Section C : Children's Classes</u>	<u>Class No</u>	<u>Section E : Cookery</u>
	Open to children aged 11 and younger on 1 st September 2014, age to be stated on exhibit.	E43.	Victoria Sponge (Jam filled & Caster Sugar on Top)
C34.	Farmyard in a Full-sized Seed tray	E44.	3 Sultana Scones (2" Cutter)
C35.	Painted Stone	E45.	3 Homemade Biscuits
C36.	Handmade marzipan fruit (3 fruits)	E46.	3 Decorated Cupcakes (Adults class)
C37.	Animal made of Vegetables	E47.	Homemade Jar of Jam
C38.	3 Decorated Cupcakes	E48.	Homemade Jar of Chutney
C39.	Picture any Media, Theme: Countryside	E49.	Man Cake (must be made by a MAN)
<u>Class No</u>	<u>Section D : Photographic</u>	<u>Class No</u>	<u>Section F : Craft</u>
	(Un-mounted and Un-framed Max 7" x 5")	F50.	Any Crochet Article
D40.	Photograph of a Local Scene	F51.	Any Knitted Article
D41.	Photograph of a Flower	F52.	Any Handmade Garment
D42.	Photograph of a Garden.	F53.	Any Other Needle Craft
D43.	Photograph of Wild Life	F54.	Any Other Craft

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As we hadn't been to The Greyhound Inn Overton Rd for a couple of years we decided to try it for an early evening meal.

The first thing I noticed was that all the chamber pots had been taken down. The second thing I noticed was a choice of three Stonehouse Brewery beers. Wonderful! What a shame I was eating, beer would fill me up too much. It is so nice to see local pubs supporting local breweries.

Despite the very tempting beer on offer we had a glass of wine each, one small one large.

The menu had a very varied choice including a good fish and vegetarian selection. We both opted for the mushrooms in garlic & cheese sauce with garlic bread. My wife had difficulty choosing between a fish or chicken dish. In the end she went for Somerset Chicken which came in a cream and cider sauce. I went straight for the chicken with bacon, black pudding and melted cheese. Too much cheese so what! Both main courses came with chips and peas. The portions were very generous so we had a dessert to share. Wonderful, we had peanut butter cheesecake. All for around £45.00

We were wondering on the way home if the people of St. Martins realise just how lucky they are to have The Greyhound at one end of the village and The Keys at the other. No real need to go any further.

The Village Life Foodsmith

WALFORD & NORTH *Shropshire* COLLEGE

Course at St Martins Centre

Getting to know your Sewing Machine

Saturday 13/09/14

1 week - 10.00am-4.30pm - £30

"Upcycling" - Friday 19/09/14

1 week - 10.00am-1.00pm - £13

Digital Photography for Beginners

Saturday 20/09/14

5 weeks 10.00am-12.00noon - £44

Dressmaking - Friday 26/09/14

5 weeks 2.30pm-4.30pm - £44

Gift Boxes – "Boxtastic" – Friday 03/10/14

1 week 10.00am-1.00pm - £13

Making Fabric Buttons – Saturday 11/10/14

1 week 10.00am-1.00pm - £13

Unusual Shaped Cards – Friday 17/10/14

1 week 10.00am-1.00pm - £13

Exploring Embroidery Stitches

Saturday 25/10/14

1 week 10.00am-1.00pm - £13

Mini Tag Album – Friday 07/11/14

1 week 10.00am-1.00pm - £13

Waterfall Card Making – Friday 21/11/14

1 week 10.00am-1.00pm - £13

Paper Crafting Christmas – Friday 05/12/14

1 week 10.00am-1.00pm - £13

Concessions are offered on all the above at a cost of £10 upon evidence of a means tested benefit

For further information and to enrol please contact

01691 688000



The Wigginton Walk

This 1 ½ hour walk is on quiet country lanes with gentle gradients and is suitable for those with children or with limited mobility. There is an alternative route using footpaths. Some of the footpaths have stiles. They are through fields, mostly of grass pasture, often containing cattle and may be muddy in places. Both walks start from the War Memorial.

The Lanes Route

Cross the road to the Memorial Garden and take Green Lane to the junction by the Church. Turn left and follow the road past the junction at Cross Lanes Farm. Pass the 'No Through Road' sign, go on to the next junction and take the right turn, sign-posted to New Marton. Follow the lane, eventually descending through a cutting known locally as Dark Lane. On leaving the cutting take the left turn signposted Dudleston.

A short way up the hill is on the right is Wigginton Hall. This is a working farm where the public road has come to separate the house from the farm buildings. The Tudor brick façade of the house faces south and has a small inscription over the front door giving the date of construction, 1688.

Further up the hill is Plas Wiggin, a splendid Tudor house with a beautifully preserved timber-framed barn. The gable of the barn faces the road and shows its construction very well.

Continue on up the lane to the junction and take the left turn signposted St Martins and return to the village, rejoining the outward route near Cross Lanes Farm

The Footpath Alternative

From the Memorial Garden, take the Ellesmere Road for about 100 metres, past the old post office with its redundant GR V letter box, now painted black, set in the wall. Take the footpath to the right (fingerpost). Follow this path between the gardens, across Cherry Tree Drive, behind more houses and over a stile into the field beyond. Follow the path along the right hand side of the field, to another stile. Over the stile turn left to the stile into Greenfields Lane. Turn right and take the lane for about 150 metres to a kissing gate on the left. Cross the field following the hedge on the right to two kissing gates close together leading on to Cottage Lane. Turn right for about 100 metres to a stile (fingerpost) on the left leading into an old orchard. Cross the orchard between the rows of fruit trees to a rather awkward double stile in the hedge. Cross the field beyond to a stile and plank bridge over a ditch and across the next field to the road to join the *Lanes Route* near Cross Lanes farm. The path from Cottage Lane is well used and easy to follow through the grass fields. Turn left to take the *Lanes Route* in the reverse direction until about 50 metres past The Spinney where there is a stile on the right. Two diverging paths cross the field from this stile. One leads diagonally to the left to Plas Wiggin and the *Lanes Route*, the other leads straight across the fields to join the *Lanes Route* near the top of Dark Lane. These paths are little used and there are often cattle in the fields.

Follow the *Lanes Route* in reverse direction back to Cross Lanes farm but turn right into Cottage Lane and then left into Greenfields Lane (No Through Road). After 150 metres, take the footpath kissing gate on the left (opposite the one on the outward route) and follow across the fields through two more kissing gates to join Green Lane opposite the cemetery. Turn right to return to the War Memorial.

Brian Latham



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Wilf Evison

“I’m twelve months off 90” he said, alert and animated. The idea is that I, as a newcomer to St. Martins, should widen my acquaintance with village life by means of getting to know people who have lived here a long time. So, who better than Wilf? I (nor he, for sure) did not know what to expect. The great surprise on my part was not simply in the wealth of recollection to be spoken by Wilf but in the carefully written, documented and preserved material that Wilf has gathered over sixty years and more. I am not quite his contemporary but have enough mileage to be able to identify with much that he recalls, both in terms of events and also in their significance and how they felt and affected us at the time. He has very kindly offered a large amount of his archive to read and consider and then we propose to work together to present it later in ‘Village Life’.

Wilf’s home and garden are orderly, comfortable and inviting - just as I found him. There was no ice to break and it took no time at all to decide what we should do together. There is a pronounced twinkle in the eye and a sense of fun not easily concealed. We shared that we had both been told to be tidily turned out for us to meet. I learned that he was the fourth of five children, that he lived in the council houses as a child at the school end of the village, that he went to school in the building that is now the doctor’s surgery and that he started work at the age of 14 at Mr. Usher’s grocery shop at the Moors by the canal. Wilf had won a fountain pen as a prize for painting at school and Mr. Usher told him he had a job painting at the bakery. Unfortunately it was painting a galvanised shed. But that was just a beginning for Wilf. He became the delivery boy and more as the years went by. He would ride his delivery bike along the towpath and across the fields (“I went in the canal one day.”) and after the ceiling had been removed from the bakery to make the heat of the ovens more tolerable, Wilf had the job in wartime, as night approached, of walking along the joists to make sure the blackout was in place. Health and safety?

There is much more for me to discover, both about Wilf and learning from him how things have developed in St. Martins in a full lifetime. My instinct and inclination is that I shall find the real history of the village in the people and not simply in what they tell and recall, but just as much in the way it is told and the perspective. Terrain, the way it is used and the built environment are themselves statements of the history of the people. The mixture of old and new property in St. Martins tells a story in itself and must speak of the tensions that the changes have caused as they happened. I shall be interested to hear how people of Wilf’s generation have coped with the changes. My first impression of him and in reading some of his poetry is that his perceptive eye and his capacity to look at life from ‘outside’ while taking his full part in it, have enabled him to accumulate such an invaluable documentary account. And there is also the philosophical detachment of old age, equally invaluable.

I look forward very much to being a (very respectful) traveller on his journey.

Don Borland



Student Report- Safer Routes to School

At St Martin's School the recent events have made us expand our school to make room for the new primary, which has caused some troubling circumstances for routes to and from St Martin's and the safety of children. So we four, year 7 students, are making it our job to inform you. Jorja Champion, Chelsea Jones, Emmiee Pugh and Izzy Clarke are here to enlighten you!



Chelsea Jones interviewed our school librarian, Mrs. C. Griffiths.

We asked her what she thought about the road work going on near the school she told us: *"I am confident that the road workers will have set up everything with safety in mind. They will make adequate provision for pedestrians. Three way lights hold traffic for quite a long time especially at busy times but we will need to be patient. When they have finished the roads and pavements it will be better than before."*



She also said about the new bike shed we will be having: *"That is good because it is transparent so nobody can tamper with any of the bikes."*

We also interviewed Garry Richards and Lizzie Williams from the Year 7 School Council, who we asked the same questions. Garry said: *"I bike to school and it is a struggle, the road works get in the way. It is stressful when the roads are busy but it doesn't concern me if drivers stress about the lights."* Lizzie replied: *"I come to school by bus, road works don't interfere with my trip to school"* Garry also said about the bike shed: *"It looks awesome and safe!"* Lizzie agreed: *"It looks good because no bikes can get vandalized."* Also we interviewed Abigayle Champion from the same Year 7 class and she said: *"I sometimes walk to school but normally I go in the car. It takes a while by car and going to dance with my sisters it takes ages. I think that it is right to say that they are annoying. I like the bike shed. It is very nice and modern and no one can get to your bikes."*

We had one more interview from a T.A called Mrs Evans she said: *"I drive to the primary school to take my daughter there. The traffic lights are annoying, but they are good for the school. The bike shed looks good and helpful. I'm excited about the primary moving up so they will get used to the secondary school."*

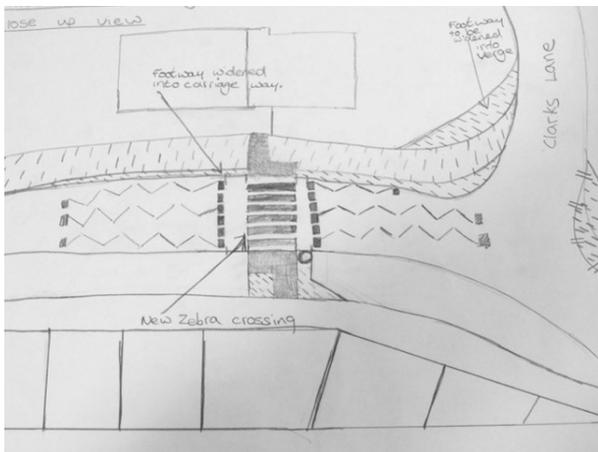


Student Report continued

Most of the work on the outside of the school is going to be widening the pavements. As a lot of people walk to school, to and from the primary and secondary school all of them will be coming together so, we will need to extend the width of the pavement so that everyone can walk to school as well, with access for pushchairs for parents with younger children. There has been a green net put over the hedge outside so no birds can nest while we proceed with the process of removing the hedge and replanting further back to allow a wider footpath.



Here is a description of The Safer Routes to School Scheme (called St Martin's Pedestrian Improve.) --Outside the school the T junction will be changed into a mini roundabout which will slow traffic outside the school. --The path along the road from the school to Stan's will be improved: it will be resurfaced along its whole length and widened in places. There will be



some overgrown hedges cut back to add width to the pavement and there will be some new dropped kerbs added to make crossing side roads easier (particularly if pushing a pushchair.) --A new zebra crossing just past the Texaco garage to help those living on the far side of the road.

Walking is a very efficient way to travel from one place to another and walking to school is a great thing to do with friends or family to help save the environment. Even though there is roadwork at hand,

the other sides of the road are just as good. Also, biking to school can be just as fun and the school will offer pedestrian and cycle training to pupils next year so children will be safer on the roads.

Shropshire Councils Sustainable Transport Team, are helping with a new secure cycle shelter to help those who travel by bike. Health and other benefits of travelling actively to school (children need at least an hour of exercise a day and adults 150 minutes a week-a brisk healthy walk can help here!)

The new primary is going to be a success and hopefully the amount of walkers to and from the school will increase after the work is done or even now, especially on those warm days. Walking to school is fantastic and safe too. We can hardly wait to see the outcome of this project and we know it will be as spectacular as we think!

Remember: Stay Safe.

By:Jorja Champion -Writer, Izzy Clarke - Photographer, Emmiee Pugh - Sketcher and Chelsea Jones - Interviewer all from Year 7 at St Martin's School.



What's on in August!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Fri 1st	Mythical Maze Make a Mask	Ellesmere Library	2pm—3pm
Sun 3rd	Car Boot	Whittington Castle	9-12noon
Mon 4th	Mythical Maze Make your own Beast	Gobowen Libaray	2pm –3pm
Wed 6th	Mythical Maze Make your own Beast	Gobowen Library	2pm –3pm
Wed 6th	National Play Day	Playing Fields Gobowen	1pm - 3pm
Sun 10th	The Tilly Swats Live Band	Ifton Miners	6pm
Sat/Sun 16th/17th	Craft Event	Whittington Castle	10am-4pm
Thurs/Fri 21st &22nd	Tennis Sessions	Sports Court Gobowen	10am-12pm
Sun 24th	ABBA Solution, an Abba tribute band	Pavilion Llangollen Tickets £15	7:30pm
Mon 25th	Car Boot Sale	Whittington Castle	9-12 noon
Thurs/Fri 28th & 29th	Tennis Sessions	Sports Court Gobowen	10am-12pm
Sat 30th	Family Fun Day in memory of the ex miners	Ifton Miners	1pm
Sat 30th	Garden Open for NSPCC/Childline	Brynkinalt Hall, Chirk	1pm - 5 pm

What's on in September!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Sat 6th	Get into Learning	Oswestry Library	11am - 1pm
Sat 6th	Maesbury Canal Festival - Side shows and Live Music	Maesbury Canal	10am - 5pm
Sat 6th	Maesbury Canal Festival - Supper etc. Tickets £12.50	Maesbury Canal	From 7pm
Sun 7th	Maesbury Canal Festival - Street Band & Dog Agility	Maesbury Canal	10am—4pm
Thurs 11th	Heritage Open Day	Oswestry Library	10am - 12pm
Fri 12th - Sun 14th	Flower Festival	Preeshenlle United Reformed Church	
Sun 14th	Living History & Re-enactment Event	Whittington Castle	10am—4pm
Wed 17th	WI Group Meeting	West Felton	7:30
Sat 20th - Thurs 25th	Whittington at War	Whittington Castle	10am—4pm
Sat 27th	Shots & Cocktails Night Shots £1 Cocktails £2.50	Ifton Miners St Martins	
Sat 27th	Grow it, Make it, Show it Show	St Martins Centre	1:30 - 15:30
Sat 27th	Osmakes Festival 'Theatre of Dreams'	Oswestry Library + Other venues around the town	Business Hours

St Martins Guides



St Martins Guides meet at Ellesmere Road Methodist Church Hall every Tuesday evening during term time from 7.00 pm until 8.30pm. The age range of Guides is from 10 until 14 years old. Activities at the hall have included crafts, games and working as a group or individually towards interest badges. A badge that was gained this Spring was a 'Go for it Life style' Challenge. Individual interest badges have included Hobbies, Party Planning and Traditions of Guiding.

During the past 12 months, the guides have been working towards completing the 'Four Seasons Camping Challenge'. Their last was the Winter Camp which took place on the first weekend of February in Chirk, during possibly the windiest and wettest weekend of the winter. Nevertheless, the guides completed the challenge with lots of good humour and with hopefully good memories'

April saw the guides at Lyneal School which is a Guiding Activity Centre for a weekend residential camp. This was organised by two guides as part of their Baden Powell award. This included a canal walk, games and other activities. The guides started their Girlguiding Commonwealth Games Challenge called 'Ready Steady Glasgow'

May was a very busy month. There was camping again from the 2nd until the 4th May at Pentre Morgan Farm, a favourite venue. This was an opportunity for younger Guides to gain and develop camping skills.

On the 30th May the guides travelled to Liverpool on the train to stay overnight with a group of Liverpool guides before going onto the Liverpool Echo Arena for Girlguiding's 'Big Gig' event. This was a pop concert only for members of the Guiding movement. Singers included Pixie Lott, Eylar Fox and Kimberley Wyatt. The leaders needed information from the guides about the singers but we all had a wonderful time.

July will see a District Barbeque for all members of Girlguiding as well as finishing off the sport challenges in 'Ready Steady Glasgow'. Preparations are being made for the annual summer camp at Bicton outside Shrewsbury. This is a popular venue for our guides and is often requested as the campsite of choice. One of the highlights will be the traditional campfire with toasted marshmallows and singing. This camp will signify the last activity for the guides for the summer term.



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St. Martins Allotments

Hi Everybody,

Well June has been great; the sun has really brought the plots on very well. Val's strawberries have been bigger than anyone else's on the plot – she must have been talking to them a lot more than the rest of us have. John is on a high – he says he is going to have the biggest cabbage on the allotment. Brian has just finished tidying up his plot and is feeling rather proud of himself. Hopefully by the time you read this we will be harvesting beans and peas. All the plots are looking very good and the crops are looking fantastic.

Some plot holders have started to dig up their early potatoes and what a lovely taste they have - much better than the ones from the supermarkets

After the last magazine advertised that we had a spare plot, we now have full take up of all the plots and I would like to welcome the three new plot holders to our association and wish them a good growing season.

If you fancy a plot, then you are more than welcome to apply to go on the waiting list.

I always say that if you put a bit of love and goodness into the ground you will reap the rewards. Roll on the time when we will be harvesting all our bounty that we have worked so hard to produce.

Tony Hall. Chairman. St Martins Allotment Association.

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Activities for under 5's At St Martins School

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Every Thursday 1-3pm

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◆ **Useful information for families**

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Sessions in school holidays may alter - please contact 01691 656513 for further details

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St Martins Centre



Last month the wonderful folk from the Oswestry Osyteers lead by Mike Laid worked very hard in The Centre garden, tidying and weeding one of the flower beds. They did a great job and the community garden is looking so much better. It's not a bad space to have a picnic.

There are lots of new things happening at The Centre over the next couple of months including several courses led by Walford & North Shropshire College. These new craft courses include: 'Getting to Know your sewing Machine', 'Up Cycling', 'Dress Making', 'Making Gift Boxes' and 'Digital Photography' (for beginners). If you are interested in any of these please contact the College for more information. ALL course registrations need to be done through the college, for courses taking place here.

Unemployed and need to upgrade your computer skills? A new computer course starts here at The Centre soon, if you are interested please get in touch with Sue at the Centre. The ECDL course, funded by the LJC, will take 6 unemployed people through the 'ECDL extra' computer course with an assessment at the end of each module, giving candidates a certificate to show knowledge and confidence when using computers. This course could be a valuable addition to a CV in the current job market.

FAMILY NIGHT OUT- IT'S A PARTY

Sat 4th October Doors Open 6:30 for a 7pm start. Food & Bar

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Police Warning on Bogus Callers

Residents are advised to be more cautious following a number of complaints received about suspicious telephone calls and doorstep callers in the past few weeks. These calls were about will writing services, loft insulation and disability and mobility services, and in all reported instances the consumer's property was visited following the unwanted telephone call. In the case of loft insulation the trader claimed to be working on behalf of the local council but when the resident challenged him for further information the caller then went back to his car to apparently to get some I.D but instead promptly drove off and has not since returned. A will writing salesman called on an older resident and sold him a will writing package for £3000. No paperwork was left with the resident but he was able to cancel the cheque he had made out due to the seven day cooling off period available for all contracts agreed in the home. There have also been a number of incidents reported where older and vulnerable residents have been contacted by mobility sales people who pretend they are working on behalf of the NHS but provide goods which are often not required and excessively priced. Steve Jorden from Trading Standards said "Residents should be wary of any doorstep cold callers or telephone callers. If callers are not expected and uninvited, you are perfectly within your rights to turn them away or not enter into a conversation with them. If, however, a contract is agreed in your home you legally have a seven day cooling off period and can cancel. The trader must provide a written cancellation notice; if not a criminal offence is committed"

For advice on your rights or to report a suspicious caller please contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 040506



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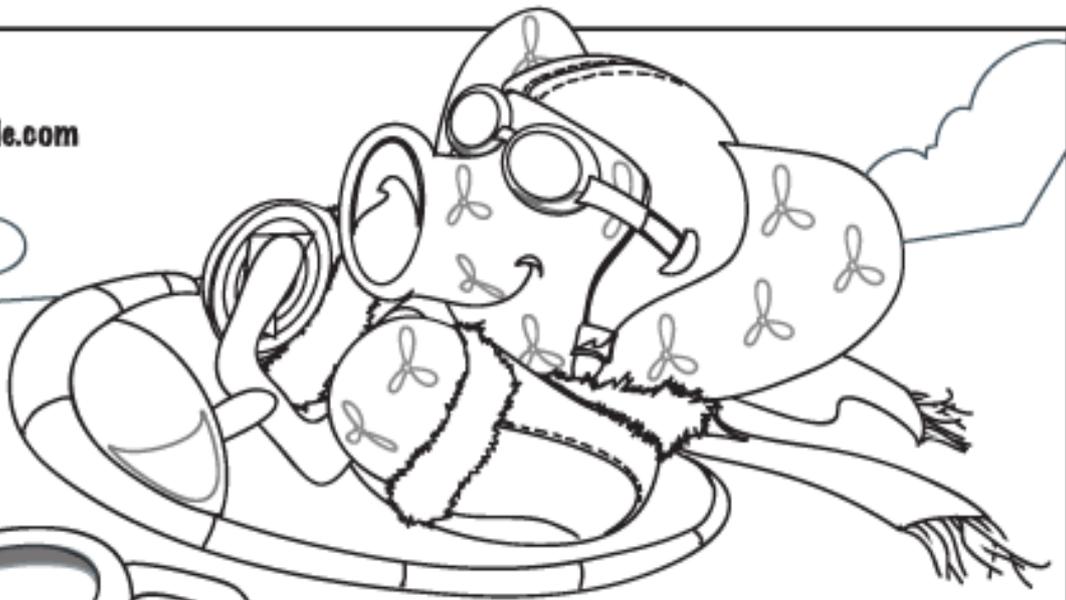
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	8			6			2	
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How well can you colour in this picture?



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1. Which sauce should be served with Chicken Maryland?



2. Dover Sole is a, flat fish, round fish, or shell fish?

3. A Leg of Mutton Cut comes from which animal?

4. Name the 3 main ingredients in Yorkshire Pudding?

5. Chasseur Sauce (hunter sauce) is made with what type of wine?



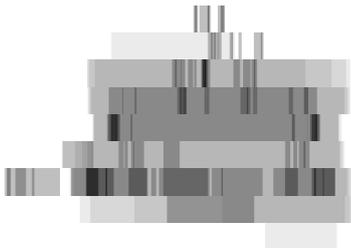
6. Eclairs are made using what pastry?

7. How many ounces in a pound?

8. Name three ways of detecting the freshness of fish?

9. Which is the odd one out & why Hake, Halibut, Herring, Haddock?

10. Traditional Minestrone Soup is suitable for vegetarians? **True or False**



11. Pasta originates in what country?

1 2. What fruit is in Cockie-leekie soup?

13. Where would you find dead mans fingers?

14. What egg product would you find in Eton Mess?

15. What is the main ingredient of Scotch Woodcock?



Tie Breaker: Separate page please.

What do you like/dislike about Village Life magazine?

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Dart Energy submits CBM planning application

Dart Energy has submitted a planning application to Shropshire County Council to drill one coal bed methane exploration well called Criftins-1 on a parcel of farmland (half the size of a football pitch) between St Martin's and Dudleston Heath.

If the planning application is approved, the exploration well will be drilled to a depth of 830 metres and a steel liner inserted to approximately 270 metres to protect the aquifer. A sample of the coals (called a core) will then be taken for laboratory analysis of the gas content, the well will be filled and sealed with cement, the drilling rig and equipment will leave the site and the ground fully restored to its former agricultural use.

Coal Bed Methane (CBM) is natural gas just like North Sea gas. CBM is trapped in the coal seams by water pressure and to release the gas the water is pumped out and safely and cleanly disposed of. This in turn relieves the pressure on the gas and it flows via the well bore to the surface facilities and from there into the local gas grid. The UK now imports a lot of its gas from Norway and Qatar and any gas produced in the UK would displace some of those imports, pay tax in the UK and help with the UK's balance of payments.

Of course, all we are planning to do at Criftins-1 is drill one exploration well to take a sample of the coal to find out the gas content. The gas content informs us about the potential to produce gas from the coal seams at meaningful rates. Until the gas content is known and considered against similar data from wells drilled elsewhere in the Company's UK licence portfolio, or indeed data from further exploration wells, Dart Energy cannot definitively say what will happen next in a particular area. This may seem surprising to some but it is the reality of exploration.

Whenever Dart Energy considers drilling a well, a rigorous assessment of potential Health, Safety and Environmental risks is made and steps are taken to mitigate identified risks to a negligible level. If identified risks at a particular site cannot be mitigated that site is not used. Dart Energy and its predecessor companies has safely drilled 40 CBM wells around the UK in the last 10 years.

Peter Reilly

The **Village Life** Editorial Committee invited articles from both Dart Energy and those who object to the proposal for a test drilling site between Ellesmere and St Martins. We do not express an opinion on either point of view, but do want to ensure that the arguments for and against are available to you as residents of St Martins so that you can make your own judgement on them.

We will bring further information to you as it becomes available.

Reasons to say No to Coal Bed Methane Extraction

Potential subsidence: Heavy mining of this area in the past (there is a disused mineshaft close to the site), together with required removal of the water used to flood the old mines, will increase the risk of subsidence and could cause the accidental release of methane gas into the atmosphere. As St Martins sits at the top of an underground incline of the mine tunnels, this village would potentially be the first affected

Traffic: A minimum of 15 vehicle movements per day per test drill have been identified by the applicants. These large vehicles will almost certainly be routed through St Martins adding to the already high number of vehicles passing along this single road linking the site to the major road network via the A5.

Public Health: An independent geologist has identified that the structure of the coal bed layer across North Shropshire is severely fractured and thus could create a risk of methane escape if CBM is done in the area (and this was supported by several former miners still living in St Martins). Once drilled, Coal Bed Methane wells can never be removed and as the concrete sealing them decays over time the risk of them leaking will increase and thus have a serious impact on local health for future generations of residents.

Groundwater Contamination: Coal Bed Methane has been linked to water contamination in Australia and the USA where this industry is already quite developed. As – according to available information – Coal Bed Methane extraction can only safely be done in virgin coal bed layers, the existence of disused mines close by must pose an increased risk of contamination.

Noise: The application requests drilling around the clock for seven days a week. The noise associated with this is surely unacceptable in a semi rural environment.

Wildlife and Conservation: Many wildlife species inhabit the area of the site of the proposed test drill well, including ponds that are habitats for many amphibians and mammals. These species include the Great Crested Newt – a protected species under European Law. Consideration must be given to the adverse light and noise impact from the proposed drilling site on all wildlife, but particularly on nocturnal species such as owls and bats whose activities and habitats could be adversely affected.

Future Impact: If sufficient gas is found as a result of the initial test drill, further applications to drill in the area will follow. Because single wells do not yield sufficient gas for commercial purposes, many wells will need to be drilled, greatly multiplying the issues already raised above. (In Queensland, Australia over 3,000 wells have been drilled. Development on such a scale in Shropshire would totally change and destroy our rural environment.

Climate Change: Finally, the very real issue of climate change means that rather than expanding the extraction and use of greenhouse gases such as methane, we should responsibly address developing the use of renewable energies. We owe it to future generations.

Gaynor Jones, resident of St Martins with acknowledgements to Frack Free North Shropshire and Dudleston, Martin Peck and geologist Kevin Walsh

...

Although the initial deadline for comments on and/or objections to the planning application from Dart Energy for the temporary operation of an exploratory borehole and associated infrastructure on Land North West of Brooklands Farm Dudleston Ellesmere Shropshire SY12 9JG was 22 July 2014, you can still provide your input by writing to Shropshire Council Planning Department at the Shirehall in Shrewsbury, or online at the Shropshire council web-site quoting the planning reference 14/02730/MAW.

WI Report ~ June & July

At the W.I. meeting on **3rd June** Shirley Willis welcomed everyone including visitor Cristal Bamfield. The newsletter and other letters were read. Shirley announced that our W.I. stall at the Derwen Fete raised the sum of £156. The Fete as a whole raised over £11,000. Myfanwy Dulson gave her report after attending as our delegate at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Shropshire W.I. Federation at the Theatre Severn. Myfanwy also gave us some ideas for our August outing it was decided we would go to Salford Quays for the day on 5th August. Shirley presented 3 more Food Hygiene certificates to Angela Ree, Sheila Buchanan and Paula King they have passed the course held at Shrewsbury Head Office. Our speaker for the evening was Mrs Summer Wynn. She demonstrated her skills as a flower arranger and made 5 beautiful arrangements which she gave as our raffle prizes.

At the meeting held on **1st July** President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone. A report was read out from Jackie Wyatt of Gobowen W.I. who attended our national A.G.M at Leeds on our behalf. We have received our invitation from West Felton W.I. who will be hosting our annual Group meeting on 17th September, the speaker will be Karen Van Hoff who designs beautiful jewellery and tiaras. We are also going to be involved with the St Martins Grow It, Make It, Show It show on 27th September. At our sandwich, cake and tea stall at the steam rally at Park Hall on 14/15th June we raised £800 for each of the two groups running the stall, this is our main fund raiser of the year. Shirley thanked all those who worked on the stall or baked cakes for their hard work.

Our speaker for the evening was Linda Arthan whose theme was "Living the Dream" and she gave a talk and slide show on her time when she carried the Olympic Torch through Oswestry for the 2012 Olympics. Also various aspects of her sporting life as a triathlon representing Great Britain and her time as a teacher. She was a very inspirational speaker with such enthusiasm and we enjoyed her talk immensely.

The next meeting of St Martins W.I. will be on 2nd September and the speaker will be Mrs Jessica Pannett talking about "Colour in the Winter Garden". Meeting starts at 7.30 pm at the Miners Institute, visitors and new members welcome.

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Friends of Ifton Meadows ,



June saw us planting two 'wild Shropshire plum trees' grown from cuttings taken from a local hedge.

The trees were planted in the 'Brownies Meadow' at the same time we cut back the new bramble growth. We need to do this regularly so that the 'common orchid' found there can flourish.

June saw an early start for our monthly meeting when we joined the 'Friends of Shelf Bank' for a guided walk around their newly designated Local Nature Reserve in Oswestry. Members then returned to St.Martins Centre to complete the normal business and enjoy a welcome cup of tea. We had hoped that by now we would have started our new anti-ragwort programme. i.e. releasing a large number of cinnabar moth caterpillars but so far they have not been delivered although we were told that they had started to lay at the beginning of June. So all I can say is that I hope they arrive shortly or we will be back to digging it by hand again. A thankless job that we have been doing for several years.

Most of us are now aware of the crisis in the honeybee population. But bumblebees have been much in evidence this year, both in our gardens and on The Meadows. Take a walk on the paths around the skylark mound or through the railway field and you may well see bumblebees gathering food from the flowers. If you look carefully you will see that there are many different types of bumblebee. You might spot a red-tailed bumblebee which lives in social colonies and forages from a wide range of plants. Or you could see a tree bumblebee which has a distinctive colour pattern and has recently spread northwards from the south-east. It has an orange furry upper body, a black back and a white bum. There are always lots of things to see on The Meadows and a leisurely stroll is a good way to spot them.

If anyone is interested in helping, we will be on site on 2nd Sunday of each month (weather permitting) so come and join us.

Calling all Coffee drinkers!

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St Martins Brownies



The Fun this last term June/July just keeps on coming and coming.

The Brownies and leaders had a fantastic time at PGL centre Boreatton .

They were fearless and achieved great heights, we are very proud of all of them.

The Bee Man gave a very interesting talk to the girls showing lovely pictures explaining the equipment needed. The girls showed a real interest and asked very sensible questions.

We finished the evening with a taste of his own produced honey which the girls enjoyed.

Next the visit to the British Iron works.

They had gone to a lot of trouble for our visit putting up gazebos providing us with drinks, biscuits and goodie bags.

The Girls had to complete a scavenger hunt looking for all the different animals placed around the field moving around the many sculptures big and small,

We then moved on to see the Gorilla made from spoons, this was amazing we all had pictures taken standing next to the cage.

We ended the day with a picnic and a further quiz around the shop looking for farm animals.



A lovely day I would recommend this trip to every age group and its Free.

June 16th/17th the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides completed a competition around Oswestry looking for Elephants we made earlier and placed in shop windows.

The parents accompanied them ending up at the town park, very enjoyable evening.

We are soon coming to the end of the 100 YEARS celebration for Brownies but before we do there is a BBQ party planned to take place on the 7th July Brownies from Whittington and Rainbows' from Gobowen

as well as the St Martins Rainbows and Guides will be there.

We still have much to look forward to next term such as, the Flower show, start planting, the bird man and a project with Telford and Wreking housing.

There will be no Brownies on the 8th July this is because of the BBQ and the last Brownie night will be the 15th July.

We wish you all a lovely Summer Holiday.

We return on the 9th September Brownies.

If you are interested in becoming a Part of Guiding then go to www.girlguiding.org.uk

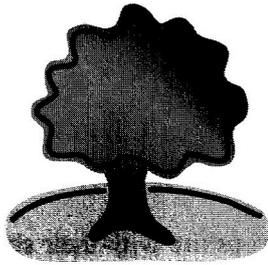
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Fri	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
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USEFUL SOURCES OF HELP

Does everyone know the various options available to them when faced with unexpected illness or injury?

Those of the more senior generation (like me!) were brought up on two alternatives: the doctor or the ambulance. The doctor was always available in the surgery or for a home visit and the ambulance was a taxi to hospital.

Some things need a **999** emergency ambulance. For example, chest pain, breathing difficulties, huge blood loss, signs of a stroke (weakness down one side, speech disruption, lop-sided face), choking.

Some things need a doctor's appointment. For example, conditions that make you feel unwell or are not right, creep up gradually, and don't go away. If you need a doctor out of hours you can ring **Shropdoc** (08444 068888) but be prepared in case there is a long wait for a return call.

There are other sources of help, however, if you aren't sure or you don't feel it is an emergency but it is urgent or you just need advice.

We are very lucky here in St Martins to have a pharmacy in Stans Superstore. **Pharmacists** are excellent sources of advice and you don't need an appointment! They also offer over-the-counter remedies for lots of problems. And if they think you need to see the doctor they'll say so.

NHS Direct (0845 4647) is another source of advice. A nurse or doctor will talk through your symptoms and if they think you need extra help they'll advise you.

Even better is the 24 hour **111** number. Instead of dialling 999 you can dial 111 and ask for advice. It is primarily for things that are urgent rather than an emergency, but the service in our area is run most efficiently by the ambulance service so they will ensure you get the correct treatment.

What happens if you have an accident? Well, for things like sprains, burns, cuts and grazes, skin tears, etc., any "walking wounded" can go to the **Minor Injuries Unit** off Gobowen Road in Oswestry. It is only open from 08.30 to 18.00 (weekdays) and 08.30 to 13.00 (weekends and bank holidays) so make sure you have your accident between those hours! You'll get great treatment, though, and probably without the massive wait you would have at A&E.

So really we are quite lucky to have all these options open to us and we shouldn't hesitate to use them.

Effie Cadwallader

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If you would like to make an appointment or discuss your needs with us, please **call Roy or Debbie on**

01691 777130

St Martins Football Club

St Martins Football Club is preparing for the new season with a new look management team. Ryan Butcher will be the manager for the 2nd year and last season he manage to keep St Martins in division one. He may be assisted by Craig Rogers but Craig says he needs 12 months away from football. Craig started his management career with St Martins but left amicably to further his career with Shawbury Utd who were 2 divisions above St Martins. He later left Shawbury to manage Morda Utd until the end of last season. Also joining is David Davies as coach, who also coaches Shrewsbury Town academy teams and he has obviously got the recommended coaching bages needed to coach at a football club i.e. U.E.F.A. B badge.

David is a local lad born in St Martins whose parents. Garfield and Alison, still live in the village. The team will train under his guidance on Wednesday evenings on the Football field.

This Year The Graham Edwards Memorial Trophy is being played again at Gobowen Playing Field starting on Sunday 20 July 2014. St Martins has been drawn against Loppington to be played Sunday evening 6:30pm K.O. on 20 July 2014. If successful in this match they will play the winners of F.C. Oswestry versus Malpas on Tuesday 29 July at Gobowen K.O. 6:30pm. Derek Stokes

BRYNKINALT ESTATE

Garden volunteers

No longer have your own garden or just looking for an exciting and interesting way to make a difference? We would love you to join the team who look after our gardens and historic landscapes. Make new friends and be part of the community of the Brynkinalt Estate.

There are always a variety of jobs to be done throughout the West Garden and Ornamental Shrubbery so we are delighted to welcome volunteers with a range of gardening knowledge and experience. Our latest project is the restoration of the unusual double Walled Garden created by Charlotte, Viscountess Dungannon in the early 1800's. This is currently derelict and we are slowly starting work, clearing . landscaping the Outer Walled Garden and re-establishing the vegetable beds within the Inner Wall Garden.

If you are interested in joining this group of volunteers, please contact us with details of your experience via email kate@brynkinalt.co.uk, or by post to: Mrs Kate Hill-Trevor, The Estate Office, Brynkinalt, Chirk, Wrexham, LL14 5NS

Tel: 01691 774159 Email: info@brynkinalt.co.uk

www.brynkinalt.co.uk

Chirk NSPCC/ChildLine

Garden Open

Brynkinalt Hall, Chirk

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1 – 5pm

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Tea – Raffle - Face painter



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ChildLine is a service provided and funded by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. NSPCC registered charity numbers 216401 and SC037717.



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Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

CHIRK HOSPITAL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.

The Hospital Circle of Friends are busy with various fund raising events the major one being the 100 years Commemoration of the 1st World War event which is taking place on Saturday July 26th at Chirk Parish Hall. There will be an afternoon buffet tea with a sing a long of songs from that era being led by the Chirk Community Choir together with dramatised presentations of life stories of that time given by the Cactus Young People's Theatre Group. This will be from 2pm - 4pm and will follow with an evening concert starting at 7.30pm also at Chirk Parish Hall when the James Lambert Singers and Llangollen Silver Band will be setting the scene with music and songs from the 1st World War together with a melody of popular songs and tunes. There is no charge for the afternoon



event - but donations would be gratefully received for the Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends. Tickets for the evening concert are £6 and can be obtained from Chirk Hospital, Daisy Chain Florists or by calling 01691 773642 or 01691 777231. There will also be an exhibition of artefacts, photographs etc of Chirk during the period of 1914-1918

which is being presented by local historian Mr Graham Greasley to whom grateful thanks are given.

All funds currently being raised are going towards the new car park at the hospital, which is in the planning application stage, work on which it is hoped will commence within the next few months.

The special memorial rose beds which have been placed in the hospital grounds by the hard working band of volunteer gardeners are now in full bloom and thanks to everyone who has donated roses in memory of loved ones. All the names are in a special book of remembrance at the hospital and it is hoped to place a special plaque with the names on in the near future. If anyone would still like to donate funds for a rose in memory of a loved one then please call 01691 772321 or 01691 773642.

The Circle of Friends are especially grateful to: Carol James and Dorothy Worrell who each month have a stall full of hand knitted craft items at the hospital and which to date has raised £1900 for the hospital. Please do go along and buy from their wonderful stock of hand knitted goods.

Computer Questions

Many years ago, I decided that I ought to go to computer classes. The problem was that the tutors spoke a different language. Then there was a programme which had to be followed. I ploughed through and learned some basics, but my real, "want to know", and my "what ifs", and "why did it do that?" went unanswered.

Recently I joined the U3A computer group, which meets at the St. Martins Centre. No matter what question I ask, or request I make, it gets an answer and the explanation is repeated as often as I need it to be.

In this friendly, encouraging and non- judgemental group, I have begun to enjoy using my computer, and know that I can go on learning. Dare I even say that I have fun there? Yes I can.

The Government are saying that "older people" need to learn computer skills. I hope that they can find their "St. Martin's Centre" to learn in.

Christine Roberts



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