

Welcome to Village Life

Welcome to this first edition of **Village Life**, a magazine run on a voluntary basis serving the community of St Martins and delivered free to all residents of the Parish. Our aim as the management committee is to try and ensure that all members of the community are aware of events, activities, news and services regarding St. Martins Parish. We want to provide a means for the promotion of village organisations, clubs, societies and activities to increase their popularity and the level of participation in them. We also want to create a forum in which local people can share their stories and ideas, and in which local businesses and services can be advertised and promoted.

To achieve all of this we plan to publish the **Village Life** magazine every two months, on the 4th Friday of the months of January, March, May, July, September and November.

If you or your organisation has something you want to share with the rest of St Martins, please send it – by the 2nd Friday of publication months – to smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com in an electronic ready to print format. If you simply want more information about **Village Life** please contact us by email at the same address.

John Stevens, Chairman, Village Life Magazine Association

If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication please email it to smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com by no later than Friday 11th July

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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.smartins-online.org.uk/villagelife

This publication will be delivered FREE to every household within the Parish of St Martins, should you not get one please email smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com

Parish Council

Hello.

Spring is here, we welcome sunny days and warmer evenings, the daffodils about the village were lovely, and lots of you are out gardening, painting, tidying, getting ready for summer.

St Martins School is being rapidly transformed to accommodate the pupils aged 3 to 11 when they start at “the bottom school” and we are still awaiting the future of Ifton School. It has been there for 100 years, an attractive building, roadside location, we don't know as yet what plans are being considered.

We have had huge investment from Welsh Water and Shropshire Council, to improve our sewers, and surface water drainage (still in progress), but already a massive improvement to reduce any flooding risks through the village, having personally struggled to get Severn Trent and Welsh Water to listen since more than 20 years ago, and other councillors have taken up the baton, thank goodness they finally listened to us, due most recently to our 3 parish water forum, who were tenacious in their pursuit of making Welsh Water listen.

Our broadband improvement plans are in hand (hopefully) and even though we are on a Welsh exchange , we should still benefit from improved broadband speeds, in the programme for an autumn upgrade start.

We will shortly have in place new planters on the railings at the village Memorial, and also a 3 tier planter on the grassed area adjacent to the mini roundabout. New tubs of plants are also being placed at our War Memorial.

We are also committed to going for night time lighting reductions, switching off some lights during night hours, as a cost saving and also reducing night lighting pollution.

I believe this village has risen from the doldrums of the 70s after Ifton Pit closed, to become a village of the future, a 21st century village, with a good community heart, and when we get our recreational facilities, a village people will want to move to.

Finally I would like to thank all the volunteers in our community who give their time to help others and to provide the organisations that some take for granted, without our volunteers we would not be such a vibrant village with a future.

Kind regards to all STMARTINIANS

From Helen Williams,

Chairman of St Martins Parish
Council.



C.F.R. SINGS MOZART

Saturday 17th May saw St Martins` Community First Responder, Effie Cadwallader, swapping red overalls for black formal wear as she takes part in a major concert in Oswestry. At 7.30 in Holy Trinity Church, Rofit Street, the Oswestry chamber choir



Cantiones joined forces with the town`s orchestra Oswestry Sinfonia and the Glyndwr University Community Choir for a performance of Mozart`s famous and fabulous “Requiem,” his final work, all under the baton of Sinfonia`s associate conductor, Gerry Howe.

CFR Effie, who is a member of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir, was the soprano soloist in the Mozart, and picked up her viola to join the orchestra for the other works in the programme, Pergolesi`s Magnificat and Rameau`s overture “La Temple de la

Gloire”.

“I was delighted to be singing on home ground again, particularly alongside Cantiones of which I remain an honorary member,” says Effie. “I normally have to cease CFRing at around lunchtime on concert days but I was able to cover a few more hours that day!”

Choral Concert 2014 WELLINGTON

Midlands Chorale

GLORIA!



Accompanied by Oswestry Sinfonia

**INVITATION
CONCERT**

Saturday 28th June 2014

Just need a small advert?

Use this **Business Card** space to advertise your business or service in the next edition of the new **Village Life** magazine and have it delivered free to every home in St Martins.

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WALFORD & NORTH *Shropshire* COLLEGE

Are you looking to take part in an adult education course ?

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We can offer a broad range of activities, such as IT and Digital Photography, Arts and Crafts, Languages and Fitness

Please forward your ideas to :-

Katie Edwards – k.edwards@wnsc.ac.uk

Marie Wright – m.s.wright@wnsc.ac.uk

or alternatively call us :-

01691 688083

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



My wife and I had visited The Keys at St Martins when John and Vicki first started doing food. It was very good. On this visit we were a bit apprehensive as we found the chef had changed. There was no need for apprehension, it was even better!

For starters we chose breaded mushrooms with garlic mayonnaise and home-made pate. Both were generous portions, but the best bit for me was hot toast and above all butter you could spread. None of the half frozen spread you get in some establishments.

For main course we eventually chose from a large selection, salmon with dill sauce and breast of chicken topped with bacon cheese and barbeque sauce. We had difficulty choosing as the menu contained lots of our favourite dishes. Whilst we were eating I noticed (I know you shouldn't look) another customer having the special sizzling dish. It looked wonderful so I now know what I am having next time!

Despite being full up we went greedy and had desserts. We chose home-made amaretto cheesecake and banoffee pie, again very generous portions. We had trouble walking out!

With a glass of wine each the bill came to less than £40.00

All in all, very good value for money. We shall return!



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Ifton Colliery Band

Win Again



Despite a lower than usual entry of competitors due to the late Easter Holiday this year, the Buxton Brass Band Festival celebrated its 50th anniversary in fine style with a wonderful day of music making (just one own choice work was repeated) in the heart of the famous Derbyshire Spa town.

Adjudicator Mike Kilroy, fresh from adjudicating at the Spring Festival in Blackpool certainly enjoyed the standard of playing the Fourth Section, which he described as 'the best he had adjudicated'.

Ifton Welfare's excellent winning performance of 'Royal Parks' under the baton of Wayne Ruston continued to show that the Butlins Champion will be one of the hot favourites at the National Finals in Cheltenham later this year.

They took home with them the £450 first prize and the Charles H Kitchen Trophy, as well as the prize for the best bass section.

Second place went to a fine rendition of 'The Aeronauts' by Formby under Louise Hough with Deepcar Brass in third playing 'Oregon' directed by Lindon Bolt.

This article was copied from **4bars rest**.



ST MARTINS

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

John, Effie and Kerry continue to volunteer as Community First Responders in and around St Martins.

It has been a busy start to the year. For those interested in how far we go for 999 jobs, here are our locations for January, February and March 2014:

Oswestry 38, St Martins 33, Gobowen 22, Ellesmere 21, Dudleston Heath 15, Weston Rhyn 10, Whittington 7, and all-these 1 each – Trefonen, Wem, Cockshutt, Rhosygadfa, Gwernybrenin and Selattyn.

The greater majority of the jobs we have been sent to is “FALLS”. Sometimes the patient is hurt: many times they are not, but they need help to get up. It’s always a relief to arrive at a house where someone has fallen inside, to find a keybox outside and our controller was able to tell us the code to get in. Having to wait for the police to arrive to break in is very frustrating, and it leaves such a mess to be cleared up afterwards! Consider having a keybox – I’ve got one!

It still comes as a surprise to people that CFRs have to buy all their own kit, uniform, equipment and car! The British Heart Foundation has provided the defibrillators and the ambulance service replaces any bandages, oxygen, etc., which we might use, but the remainder we must buy for ourselves.

Everyone at The Keys pub has continued to support us, however, as has Andrew Foulkes and Stans Superstore. The bag packing we did at Stans just before Mothering Sunday brought in over £500 and we must thank everyone who made a donation to our “pot” on the day. That amount almost covers the insurance on the CFR car for the next year, always a big outlay for us. It has been a super little car, reliable, economical and nippy, and Castle Garage has been a great help sorting out any little problems we have had. It is with some regret that we need to look at replacing it sometime in 2014.

Apart from the 999 jobs, Effie has done a couple of talks to local groups about the work of the CFRs, and shortly John will go to Buckingham Palace to collect his M.B.E. Don’t expect him to be wearing it if he shows up when you’ve called 999 though! *Effie Cadwallader CFR RC 1189 St Martins*



Others will follow your footsteps more easily than they follow your advice!

THE KEYS

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5pm-8pm

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Friends of Ifton Meadows



Do you know about the Friends of Ifton Meadows? We are a group of volunteers who work in conjunction with Shropshire County Council to maintain Ifton Meadows Local Nature Reserve. We meet at the main entrance to the Meadows, also known as the Colliery entrance, across the road from the Industrial Estate at 1.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month, for our “Green Gym”. This is the opportunity to get some exercise in the open air, by working on tasks to maintain and improve the site. Depending on the time of year, we may be clearing paths, improving areas for butterflies, pulling up ragwort, checking tree guards or carrying out any of the numerous other tasks. Tools are provided, and there are always spares and a warm welcome for new Friends to come and join in.

If there is anyone who hasn't visited Ifton Meadows yet, it is in the Pentre area of St.Martins, reached by following the brown road signs. The main entrance has parking spaces for a few cars and wheelchair access is available with a RADAR key. The key allows the gate to be fully opened outwards, therefore we ask car owners to keep the hatched area on the road clear at all times. A hard surfaced pathway gives access to the viewpoint at the top. Other paths are typically unmade and, though they can be muddy in wet weather, they offer a variety of routes for exploring the site. Cycling and unauthorised motorised vehicles are prohibited on the site. If you bring your dog, please clean up after it. A disposal bin is provided beside the gate.

Ifton Meadows was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 2005. The site covers about 20 hectares (47 acres) and includes a variety of habitats, including semi-ancient woodland and acid grassland. The skylarks are a particularly valued species. These birds are on the Endangered Species list and we are lucky to have them. During their breeding season (March – September) we request visitors to keep off the rough grassland area where they usually nest. In 2013 we recorded 3 breeding pairs who raised 10 juveniles. We hope they have an even more successful season this year.

More information is available at: st.martins-online.org.uk and on our Facebook group page: [Friends of Ifton Meadows](#).

Ann Williams, Chair, Ifton Meadows Management Committee.

Report from the Parish Council's April Meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Edward Davies to his first meeting as the new Parish Clerk who had taken over from Sue Crow.

Members expressed concern over possible fracking in Dudleston Heath. Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport said the first he heard about this was when he read it in the press. However this was for extracting methane gas which already had planning permission granted in 2010. This was just a renewal of that application. There would be a public meeting on this. Councillor John Stevens stressed the need that St Martin's people are also invited to this meeting.

A Member asked for an update on the highway changes around the school entrance. Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport said that a plan is being drawn up now which should include a light controlled pedestrian crossing, wider footpaths, cycle path and mini roundabout. All this work was planned to be completed before the school opens in September 2014.

On planning matters, Members considered an outline application for the erection of two further dwellings at 8a Moors Lane. It was resolved that the Parish Council strongly objects to this application on the following grounds; the site is outside the village boundary; this would now be an over development of the site; the Parish Councils SAMDev. response states no further development in Moors Lane; the land & access are prone to surface water flooding; effect on the right of way to the coal yard business (access may be compromised) with ownership of this access road in dispute as we believe that the applicant does not own the whole access road; additional traffic on a narrow no through lane will cause problems; there is a pond on the site, are there newts?; concern over close proximity to canal and how will the accumulated site surface water be dealt with. In any event the Parish Council also request that an application for Tree Preservation Orders is placed on all trees on this site.

The Parish Council resolved to create a Recreation Services Committee to come into existence with effect from the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2014. In addition to Members from the Parish Council it was suggested that up to five local organisations are approached to appoint their own representatives on this committee. These could include the Parish Plan group, Friends of Ifton Meadows, Footballers, Guides & Scouts, Schools and Local Businesses.

Some ideas put forward to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War included attaching large poppies on the street lights along the main road although the parish Council would need Shropshire Council permission on this. Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport suggested the grassed area outside the school, set back from the highway, would be an ideal location for a tree and plaque plus a walled area around it with bricks donated from the school. Again the Parish Council would need Shropshire Council permission for this.

Edward Davies

St Martins Parish Clerk

WI April 2014

Our President Shirley Willis

welcomed everyone to our 1st April meeting which was also our Spring Show event. Letters were read, one from The Derwen thanking us for our sponsorship, and invitations for events at neighbouring W.I's, also from the National Federation with postcards for members to use to send off to Parliament to encourage a Bees Action Plan. The Shropshire Annual Report and the National Federation Annual Review were made available to members. A vote was taken on the resolution to Increase Organ Donation and was supported by a large majority. A number of our members will be doing our section of the Shropshire Way Walk on 29th April to celebrate the Shropshire Federation's 95th birthday. Sheila Buchanan informed us of Prize Bingo at the institute on 19th April in aid of cancer research. Myfanwy Dulson collected donations for the Derwen Fete stall. Shirley Willis gave a report on the Inspiring Women meeting at Chester and on the Oswestry Show meeting. She thanked all members for taking part in our Spring Show and we had 151 individual items entered, amazing



for a small W.I. such as ours. Whittington W.I. kindly supplied 4 judges and they did a wonderful job for us. The Preserves section was won by Isobel Banham, 2nd Ruth Dean, 3rd Paula King. Cookery was won by Shirley Willis, joint 2nd was Ann Sadler & Ruth Dean, 3rd Isobel Banham. Floral section was won by Morfydd James, 2nd Helen Williams, 3rd Alice Wilding. Handicrafts section was won by Rita Jowett, 2nd Ruth Dean, 3rd Helen Williams. Overall winner was Ruth Dean. The Best In Show was won by Pam Doyle. The cups were presented to the winners and a group photo was taken. Our members gave themselves a round of applause for a great effort and agreed it had been one of our most successful shows and was enjoyed by us all. The evening ended with a quiz. New members and visitors are always welcome.

St Martins Historians



To commemorate the centenary of World War 1, St Martins Historians are currently undertaking a project to find out more about those people named on our Village War Memorial, with a view to communicating our findings to the local community at large.

If you are a descendant of any of those named and have any information, we would be most grateful if you would contact us. Thank you.

Please contact Di Roberts on 01691 773816



Commemoration of 100 years since commencement of 1st World War.

Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends is marking the 100 year anniversary of the start of the 1st World War with a special day of events taking place at Chirk Parish Hall on Saturday July 26th, and which includes an afternoon tea and sing-a-long of the songs from that period, which will be led by Chirk Community Choir. There will also be a dramatisation of stories of local people from that period given by the local children's theatre group- Cactus Theatre Group. Local Historian Mr Graham Greasley is also putting together and an exhibition of memorabilia relating to the First World War and is appealing for items such as letters from the front sent by local soldiers, photographs, poems etc to be sent to him - please contact Graham on 01691 - 777527 if you can help with this please. The exhibition will be sited at Chirk Library for several weeks following the event on July 26th. The day's events will conclude with a concert bring given by Llangollen Silver Band and The James Lambert Singers who will also be performing songs from the 1st World War together with items from their popular repertoire. Tickets will be available for the concert as from June 1st priced at £5 by calling 01691 773642 or 01691 772321 .

To Start a New Life

When we moved to St. Martins 10 years ago we knew it was important to meet new friends.

Responding to an appeal for volunteers I joined the committee at the St Martins Centre and then looked to see if there was a branch of the U3A, University of the Third Age, locally. I had been involved with U3A a little when I worked in Farnborough, Hampshire. The U3A believes that retirement is an opportunity to take up hobbies and learn things you had only dreamt about when you were working. In Farnborough I had joined the lunchtime tap dancing classes and the weekly water aerobics at the local 'ool (please note there is no P in our pool!!)

For months before my retirement I had watched groups of people gathering to catch coaches for outings and wished I was going with them. We promptly moved from Farnborough when I left work so I never did get to go on a trip with them.

However, our local U3A is in Oswestry and meets every Tuesday morning in the Memorial Hall usually with an interesting speaker. I went along to a meeting with some trepidation, but was made to feel very welcome and was whisked away immediately to join a singing group, then a fun crown green bowling session in the park. The Oswestry U3A has a great variety of groups including walking, gardening, bell ringing and Mah-jong. I have joined a book reading group and started my own groups including discussion, photography and, at the moment, computing which we run at the St Martins Centre. Every Tuesday the main U3A group meets in Oswestry at about 10.00 a.m. for coffee and biscuits with a speaker at 10.30. It has proved so popular Oswestry Borders U3A has started up. Both groups have Web Sites.

The subjects covered by speakers are very varied including our own First Responders, artists, and musicians. Some speakers are a bit taken aback finding themselves facing an audience of over 100 people.

I volunteered to be secretary for the very active U3A Travel Group and now regularly go on coach trips. This year we plan to visit the lavender fields in Norfolk, Antiques Fairs, Oban Scotland, and The Electric Mountain, as well as Bletchley Park, London Theatre and Mystery trips. With our move and retirement we have made many good friends and acquaintances and are enjoying ourselves. Judy Birkett

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Shropshire Council

Councillor Steve Davenport

Unitary Councillor

St Martins School Governor

Chair of St Martins Centre Trustees

We are all time-challenged people so I hope you all agree how great it is to see this new magazine being launched by a committee of village residents and I urge local businesses to support it by taking advertising space which I am sure will pay dividends all around.

St Martins has been a particularly busy village in recent times, not least with the changes happening within our schools. My personal congratulations go to Sue Lovesy whose 22 years of dedication through some challenging landmarks in education generally have been recognised by her appointment as headteacher of St Martins School. The new primary school is also well underway and still on target to open in September. This will be complemented by new traffic calming measures between the school and Stan's, including wider footpaths and a pedestrian crossing.

There is currently a lot of press about 'fracking' in Dudleston and certainly the application by DART Energy to renew an existing planning application for a test borehole has required a steep learning curve for me. What I do know is it is for methane extraction which seems to be a whole different ball game. We all have a responsibility to conserve energy and I will continue to investigate whether this is an appropriate source of it.

If you have any questions about this or any other issues, please don't hesitate to contact me by leaving a message with Sue Schofield at the St Martins Centre or by emailing me on steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk or calling 07776 173678.

Just need a small advert?

Use this **Business Card** size space to advertise your business or service in the new edition of the new Village Life magazine and have it delivered free to every home in St Martins.

*For details of advertising rates telephone
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St Martins Parish Church News

Christenings / Baptisms

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

In June and July we will be welcoming: Olivia Fell, Seren Roberts, Isabelle Davies and Riley Burton

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.

Our Sunday FIRST Family Worship Service takes place on the 1st Sunday of every month at 11.00am. It is a half hour service with music story and prayer and afterwards we go into the hall for coffee, cake and some craft activities. This service is popular with all ages but is great for young children and their parents.

Weddings

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

It doesn't have to cost too much.

After the legal fees for a church wedding (about £450*) the other big five wedding expenses are usually the reception, the engagement ring, the wedding dress, photography and video, and the honeymoon, which together normally take up about 75% of the wedding budget. Keep these five under tight control and you can have a unique and special day with breaking the bank. See the Church of England website for ideas.

*add £110 for bells at St. Martins

The St. Martins FOODBANK is open every week, part of the Oswestry and Borders Foodbank network - feeding local people in crisis.

Wednesday - 10:30am -12:30pm.

13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK. Oswestry and Borders Foodbank provides a minimum of 3 days emergency food to local people in crisis.

How a foodbank works

- *Food is donated*

Schools, churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to the foodbank.

- Food is sorted and stored

Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date and pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need.

- Frontline care professionals identify people in need

Care professionals such as social workers, Sure Start, Children In Need, local school staff, CAB, Shropshire Housing Alliance, Shropshire Family Information Service and Victim Support identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

- Clients receive food

Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.

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.

On going repairs are taking place on the clock which sadly is still having problems with its old mechanism. Our Organ will be having a clean and rebuild paid for by the church league of friends, (thank you). This should mean the instrument should be able to be used for many years to come.

Church Grave Yard.

Thank you to all those who take time to clear and care for the memorial sites in this sacred place. The Church Council do appreciate people taking their litter home and would like to thank those who cut the grass. If you have the time and a lawnmower and would like to help with the difficult job of cutting grass around the various graves then we would like to hear from you. We would gladly contribute to such a volunteers expenses.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES Sunday 21th July 2013

8:00am	BCP Holy Communion
9:15am	Pre-Service Prayer
9:30am	Confirmation Service
11:00am	Worship at St John's, Western Rhyn

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What's on in June!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Tues 3 rd	WI - Flower Arranging	St Martins Institute lounge	7:30PM
Sat 7 th	Flower Festival	Oswestry Methodist Church	10AM until 5PM
Sat 7 th	Rose Queen	Gobowen Playing Field	2pm
Sat 7 th & Sun 8 th	House of the Blackstar, enactment group	Whittington Castle	2pm
Sat 14 th	St Martins Football Club 'Fun Day'	St Martins Football Field [behind Stan's]	2pm
Sat 21 st	Strawberry Fayre	Hand Hotel, Chirk	12noon until 3pm
Sun 22 nd	Plant Hunters Fair	Whittington Castle	
Sat 28 th	Charity Football Match Sophie Edwards Fund	St Martins Football Field [behind Stan's]	Kick Off 3pm
Sat 28 th	Quiz Night Bring your own drinks, have lots of fun.	Weston Rhyn Village Hall	7:30
Sat 28 th	Annual Fun Day	Chirk AAA's Sports Ground	Procession 12noon Ground opens !2:30
Sun 29 th	Big Tea Party	Chirk Bank	10am

What's on in July!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Tues 1 st	WI – Living the Dream	St Martins institute Lounge	7:30pm
Sat 5 th	Outdoor production of 'The Importance of Being Ernest'		
8 th -13 th	International Musical Eisteddfod	Llangollen	All Day
26 th -27 th	Multi Period Event, large living history event	Whittington Castle	10am — 2pm

Tell Us About Your Event!

We want everyone in the area to know about all the events and activities they could support. You can help by telling us about anything you are organising or might be involved in. You can also help by getting anyone you know who is organising an event or activity in the area to send us the details for inclusion in **Village Life**.

The next issue will cover events happening in August and September and we need the information by no later than Friday 11th July.

Please send the information to stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com or phone us at St Martins Centre on 01691 770204 to let us have details of the event, when and where it is and the time it starts.

Thank you in advance,

The Moors Chapel

We have been having an exciting time at the Moors chapel on our outside area tidy up and creating a lovely area instead of a waste land. It has really progressed well after a very slow start. This is due to the help and encouragement of all at the Moors, the circuit and the council and a lot of voluntary support from the neighbours who love the chapel. It has been very encouraging to see its progress. In words the area is to



look cared for and we now seek the Lord's guidance on how to proceed with the next stage. He has really blessed us with the help of so many, including wonderful assistance from the Probation Service and the craftsmanship of the Prison Service. For the Chapel anniversary weekend we had a packed chapel for a concert by the Salvation Army Songsters. They brought us such joy and inspirational songs and hymns. We also had our own Hymns of Praise led by Revd. Heather and that just reminded us all of God's goodness and built up our faith. We also had beautiful weather and we could use the new patio area, much to the delight of all.

A new fence will also be made at the back to separate the area from the cars.

Advance Notice:

We will be having a Christmas fair on the 30th November at 2.00 p.m. It always has lots of ideas for Christmas Presents as well as a cup of tea and mince pies.

Our Carol Concerts will be on the 1st December at 5 p.m. for teas and cakes and the concert at 6 p.m.

Valerie Knowles



Services at the Methodist Chapels

Dates	1st June	8th June	15th June	22nd June	29th June
Ellesmere Road	AWT	Baptism 11am Wilson	Wilson HC	D Watkins	AWT
Moors	AWT	AWT	Wilson HC	E Watkins	Walker

St Martins Centre

St Martins Centre was built in 2004 and became a Charity whilst in the planning stage and is still run by a committee of Trustees and on a day to day basis by a group of volunteers, who give of their time freely. We are self sufficient and our only income is from the hire of the facilities.

Through the efforts of some villagers who saw a need for a community centre, grants were applying for. Europe money through Advantage West Midlands was secured and after much advice and architectural vision St Martins Centre was built.

The Centre has several different rooms that make it very flexible for many activities, from computer based classes, through language classes and training sessions, to keep-fit groups and children's parties. We also have changing rooms with shower facilities which are available for hire.

Book Box, which is a book lending service, is just one of the services the Centre supports. It is populated by donated books and you can, on filling in an application form (free of charge), borrow as many books as you like, for as long as you like and we will never chase you.

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.

Police

Garden Security

It's that time of year when a lot of you will be working hard in your gardens keeping the weeds down and the grass tidy. Please remember to make sure you're garden tools, especially power tools are all locked away when not in use. Sheds should all have sturdy padlocks but also hasps, as they are often cut rather than the padlock. Also remember that if they are held on with screws, that they can easily and quickly be undone with a cordless screwdriver. Most DIY stores stock 'tamper proof' screws that can't be undone, these are a brilliant preventative measure.

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

Please report anything suspicious to the police on 101.

Kate Le'Clere, PC 3718

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Safer Neighbourhoods Team

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Word Search for Kids

Can you find the months of the year?

Words can go horizontally and vertically either way, but not diagonally.

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

Sudoku

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

How well can you colour in this picture?



St Martins Youth Club

St Martins Centre

FRIDAY EVENINGS

(in term time only)

ENTRY £1

Doors open 7:30

PS3, Pool, Table Tennis, Table Football, WiFi, Tuck, Craft, etc

Age: Year 6 and above

For June & July YEAR 5 Welcome



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I'd like to introduce you to KnitWork, a new group starting on 2nd June at the St Martin's Community Centre for people struggling with depression, anxiety and loneliness. Its part support group, part knitting group. You can drop in for the whole hour, or dip in for part of it.

The idea behind the group is this, as a mental health nurse with 18 years' experience I have seen how valuable it is to have something that can occupy your mind in tough times. Something you can share with others, and something that can make you feel good about yourself. I also know how important it is to have people to share things with. As a life-long knitter I know how knitting ticks all those boxes for me, and I have used it in my work with many clients over the years.

Recently an organisation called Stitchlinks started looking into the usefulness of knitting in the treatment of chronic pain, and they also started to see how knitting could help with anxiety and depression as well. Check out their website <http://www.stitchlinks.com> for more information.

If you'd like to know more please get in touch with Becca on 07814211974 or by email on becca@alterknitive.co.uk

Property Sale Pitfalls



Selling property can be a harrowing experience, particularly if this is only done once or twice in a lifetime. The process over recent years has changed dramatically; gone are the handwritten deeds and all the useful information that those documents contain. All is now covered with a single document called the Land Registration Certificate. Compulsory registration has been in place now for some time so the question of who owns what can now easily be ascertained by a quick online search. You may think this has made life much easier when it comes to selling, not so, a whole host of new regulations and certificates are now required.

Firstly, an Energy Performance Certificate will need to be prepared for your property. These are generally not expensive but something your estate agent obtains before putting your property on the market. When a buyer has been found a series of questions will be asked by your solicitor ie the enquires before contract detailing general matters about the property. For example, if your property is listed you will be asked whether any repairs or improvements have taken place and if so you will be asked for the listed building consent for these. Even if your property is not listed and you have replaced a window in the house in recent years a FENSA certificate will be required. I still regularly find householders have no idea that such a certificate even exists.

Many people in rural areas have private water supplies and the solicitor acting for the purchaser will ask whether your private water supply from a spring or a well has been tested. There lies the problem. Invariably, water you have been drinking for years does not pass the stringent tests, although I have also had experience of mains water from the tap failing the test.

Boundary disputes are always a thorny problem, particularly when the Land Registry certificate plan differs from what is on site, this problem can hold up or prejudice a sale. Having your property registered in advance of sale is really the order of the day.

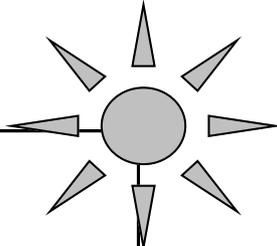
Now pertinent to the St Martins area is the successful new sewerage situation that has been achieved in the village. However, there are those within the area that do not have access to the mains sewer and still have a septic tank. Here we have 'The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales Regulations 2010) regulations are a real party stopper. In essence, the regulations seek along with other matters to require registration of any discharge from a septic tank as well as controlling any discharge from a household direct into the water course. The requirement to

register your foul disposal system is brought about by the Environment Agency and DEFRA as part of the implementation of the European Framework Directive. This can be checked on the Environment Agency website and interestingly the Environment Agency states these regulations provide the 'lightest touch approach to meet these European obligations', we have not heard this one before. In practice registration only needs to be undertaken once and providing it is successful you obtain exemption and the need to hold an environmental permit to discharge from a septic tank.

In the course of my work a number of homeowners have asked me whether they need to register their drainage system and generally the first thing I say is are you sure you have a septic tank and not a cesspit as these do not need to be registered as there is no outfall or discharge. I am sure there are many people who have absolutely no idea they need to register. In fact in my experience many people have no idea what actually happens after the discharge leaves the bathroom and most probably do not really want to know. Some may say, 'forget about it' and the problem will go away, experience has shown that it is not necessarily going to go away, it may go quiet but when you sell your property the contract will ask whether or not the drainage is to the main sewer or a septic tank. Then following your disclosure you will be asked whether the discharge has an exemption certificate and if you hold a permit for the discharge. Yet another part of the selling process which can be frustrating and delay the selling process.

In conclusion therefore, if you are contemplating selling make sure you consider what certificates you require, if in doubt discuss this with your solicitor or your chosen agent and the process should run smoothly.

Paul Dalton
Consultant Surveyor Roger Parry & Partners Oswestry



Wise men talk because they have something to say, fools talk because they have to say something.

St. Martins Allotment Association

The allotments in the village have been up and running for five years now.

We are part of the 'Carp and Carrot' Project which includes the fishing in Arthans Pool and the allotments alongside. People often ask where the allotments are. We are situated on the Ellesmere Road just past Mount Bradford Lane on the left hand side.

We have 15 plots. 10 of which are full size plots, 4 are half size plots and also one raised bed plot for disabled gardeners.

Our members are a very friendly bunch of like minded people often spending more time chatting than digging!

We grow many different varieties of fruit and vegetables and often swap produce with each other which is all organically grown and all taste wonderful when they have just been harvested.

Gardeners have to contend with a mole or two and also rabbits, but it is a beautiful setting, looking out over the pond with its ducks on one side and the hills with the cows on the other. It is just a splendid place to be on a nice sunny day.

Certainly it can be hard work but the rewards are worth the effort.

Val Williamson



We have a vacant plot available for anyone who lives in St. Martins. If you may be interested in taking either a full plot or half a plot please contact Val Williamson on 01691 770105 or 07778 758320. Or email me on redvalerian2@btinternet.com

Prior Notice

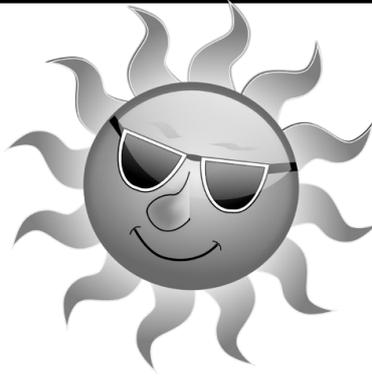
Grow It, Make It, Show It, Show

Will be on Saturday 27th September 2014

**The schedule for classes will be in the next issue of the
Village Life**

but start planning for it now!

It's that time again....



The sun is out – and wonderful to feel its warmth on our skin. But the press is full of articles about skin cancer. What is skin cancer? There are three kinds of skin cancer.

1) **Melanoma.**

2) **Basal cell Carcinoma.**

3) **Squamous cell carcinoma.**

Only the first two are related to sun exposure. Melanoma cancers are the **least** common form of cancer but the most serious. It is the one most likely to spread (and ultimately kill) and is the second most common in young people aged 15-34. This is the one I will concentrate on.

To **identify** melanomas we use **ABCD**: **A**symmetry (Uneven, unlike a regular mole which is usually round and even); **B**order (often ragged or

blurred), **C**olour (often mixed, frequently 2-3 shades of brown);

Diameter (normally bigger than a normal mole – and continues to grow).

However, not all melanomas are dark. Some may bleed, or itch.

To **prevent** melanomas, avoid the sun between 11am and 3pm; Cover up with clothes and wide brimmed hats. Use skin protection – at least SPF15 for adults and 30 for those with pale skin. It's particularly important to protect children as excessive exposure to sun in childhood is thought to be the biggest risk factor for developing skin cancer in adulthood.

To **treat** skin cancer – see your GP if you have worrying signs. The NHS has a fast track way of assessing skin problems and soon will be able to tell you whether that worrisome mole is of concern or not.

Enjoy the sun – safely.

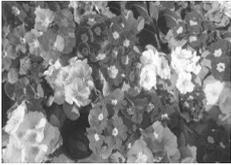
A BOOK GROUP IN ST MARTINS?

I lived in France for several years prior to our returning to the UK and moving to St Martins. While I was there, I joined a Book Group, partly as I love reading but also as a means of meeting like-minded people. It was a great success, we met every 4 or 5 weeks and we enjoyed reading and discussing an amazing range of books, often over a light lunch and a glass of wine or cup of tea.

Since our arrival in St Martins, I have often thought it would be nice to have a similar thing here, not necessarily on the same lines but at least a meeting of like-minded people to read, enjoy and discuss a wide range of books.

There are 2 people other than myself who are interested so far and it would be good to hear from anyone else in the area who might like to join us and form a Group. There is a variety of places within St Martins where we could get together and a time could be arranged to suit everyone's needs so, if anyone else out there thinks they might like to join us, please feel free to get in touch by emailing me kathy.latham1946@btinternet.com or telephone me on 01691 772890.





WESTON RHYN GARDENERS' CLUB

John Millington of Hillview Hardy Plants, based in Worfield, Bridgnorth gave a colourful presentation on 'Primulas and Auriculas' at the May meeting.

Primulas, known to most of us in its wild form, the Primrose (*primula vulgaris*), are plants originally from the Himalayas. Known for their range of rainbow colours, lush green foliage and scent brightening up the gardens in early Spring, primulas are easy to propagate by division.

There are many varieties – from doubles that used to be picked and sent to be sold in Covent Garden, to Victorian primulas that are enjoying a revival like the gold-laced polyanthus. The variety Guinevere has dark purple leaves and pink flowers, Schneekissen (snow cushion) is tiny at 1" high with sweetly scented white flowers. A tough polyanthus that was once used for municipal planting is now available to all. Called Crescendo, it is a tall-stemmed variety which is ideal as a cut flower. The elegant candelabra primulas make a stunning display alongside streams and in damp areas of the garden.

Although Auriculas look very exotic, the border varieties are tough enough for the garden and easy to grow, especially Royal Velvet which has frilled petals. The flowers look like overlapping discs of colour in the single types, but there are doubles that are not good outside as the rain settling on the flowers can soon spoil the petals. There are alpine versions with cream or gold centres, the colour shading from dark to light from the centre. Other types include show self, edges (black body, green edges), fancies (any colour that's not black) and stripes (an Edwardian fashion). Auriculas can be propagated by seed sown now and dividings (in Autumn).

There is no meeting in June. July's presentation is 'Carnivorous Plants in Cultivation/Wild' by Mike King on 9th in the Weston Rhyn Institute at 7.30 p.m. All visitors welcome.

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D.H.I. (Disabled Holiday Information)

Charity reg no 119972

The entirely awareness and volunteer led Charity is based in St Martins and was formed in 2001, following the founders personal experience of discovering how difficult it can be to find holiday accommodation and visitor attractions with totally step free accessibility. As well as its website information, D.H.I. has also been commissioned to produce accessible tourism booklets for a variety of areas. The latest free guides on accommodation, countryside trails and leisure activities for Powys are available from the magazine racks in Stan's.

The Charity's remit gradually extended and over the years, its 'Enablise Project', has supported local volunteers to facilitate disability awareness training days, conduct access audits and give talks at both local and national events. However for a variety of reasons last November, the Trustees made a reluctant decision to suspend this wider work and to concentrate on the website based information service www.disabledholidayinfo.org.uk



U3A Computer Course

This course has given me the confidence to use my computer more. I found my laptop quite intimidating, adds pop-up unbidden and make me jump! How did that happen? How can I get rid of it? Now I try new things, dangerous, I wrote some text for a long email, got cramp in my hands (everything is against me) but I remembered to save it (well done me!) and there is a very nice note on my screen which says it has been saved but I have no idea how to get it back! Tried everything.

Thanks heavens for Monday Classes I am sure the ever clever enablers will know the answer. I think I need a lot more lessons!
Elaine Brown



Learn Spanish at St. Martin's Centre



Hi, my name is Gail and I am the Spanish tutor here at St. Martin's Centre. I began teaching Spanish at St Martins last year and together with the support and efforts of Sue Schofield, who is in charge here at St Martins, it has proved to be both a very enjoyable and successful venture which we hope to see grow in the future.

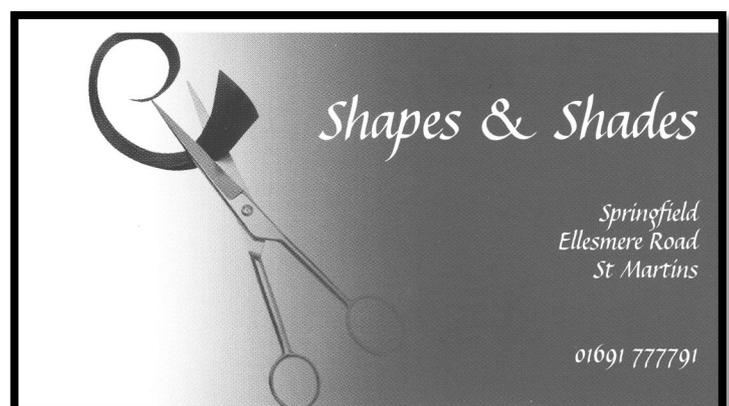
Tuesday 13th May saw the beginning of what I'm sure will be another successful and very enjoyable group of 10 lessons, which will lead us up to the time when many people are planning and enjoying their holidays in Spain, eager to try out and use their new found talent. It really does make a difference when you can understand the menus and order your favourite drink in Spanish or perhaps you would like to use public transport and get off the beaten track and see what else Spain has to offer. Perhaps you like looking for a bargain at the many wonderful markets? If you can speak Spanish then you are sure to find one.

There are many reasons to learn Spanish. I am sure that many of you out there holiday in Spain or in a Spanish speaking country. Did you know that there are more Spanish speakers in the world than there are speakers of English? I bet you didn't. Perhaps you have a child in school that is learning Spanish then learning Spanish yourself is a great way to support them or maybe you would simply like to do something new. Whatever the reason what you are looking for is right here in your St Martins Centre.

In September this year the centre hopes to offer 2 separate classes; **Spanish for beginners** and **Spanish for improvers**. There is a class just waiting for you.

Learning Spanish is fun and a great way to make new friends.

If you would like more information contact the centre on 01691 770204 or just pop along to see what we have to offer. We look forward to meeting you.



Three Parishes



3 Parishes Big Local April 2014

Weston Rhyn + St Martins + Gobowen

The 3 Parishes Big Local Partnership would like to welcome their chairman, Nick Heard, home from a lengthy hospital stay and to wish him all the best for a continued recovery.

The partnership would also like to welcome Bridget Laraway on board as Big Local Co-ordinator. Bridget joined us from April 2014 and will be working with us for a 3 month period initially. She will be focussing on completing our Community Plan, communicating with our communities, and organising activities to take place in the coming months. Bridget has lived locally in Gobowen for 7 years and is an active member of a number of community groups.

3 Parishes Big Local - Where are we now??

It has been some months since any progress updates have been published to the 3 Parishes communities. During this time, work behind the scenes has been continuing with regular partnership meetings and other activities taking place. Current priorities include:

The Community Profile. This is soon to be approved and will then be made available within the communities. This document provides a snapshot of our communities and the information it contains will be used as a baseline to measure the impact of Big Local.

The Community Plan. This is the document that will be submitted to the Local Trust and made available within the communities. It will give details of the proposed plan for investing the £1million 3 Parishes Big Local Fund in our communities. When the Community Plan is approved by the Local Trust, the £1million will be made available. We aim to have completed the Community Plan and sent it to the Local Trust by the end of July 2014.

Social Investment workshop. A workshop for Partners and Advisors was held on 17th May that will guide us through different social investment choices and the ways in which we can develop them for the benefit of the communities. **Communications plan.** This will set out how we will communicate with the residents and businesses in the 3 Parishes to make sure that information is as up to date and accessible as possible.

Look out for news about how the programme is developing in newsletters, village magazines and on our website www.big-local.org. If you have any ideas about how we can let you know about developments, please contact Bridget (contact details below).

If you would like to get involved with 3 Parishes Big Local, or for more information, contact Bridget at Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry on 01691 656882 or by email at b.laraway@qube-oca.org.uk

Women's Institute May's Meeting



Myfanwy Dulson presided over our 6th May meeting and welcomed everyone. Names were taken for the NFWI Centenary Baton Celebrations on the 8th July. We were reminded of the Steam Rally on 14th and 15th June at Park Hall where we will be running a tea, sandwich and cakes stall. Jean Lunt and Ann Sadler gave an account of the walk they did on the St Martins W.I.

leg of the "Shropshire Way Walk". This started at the Racecourse and finished around Chirk Bank. This was for the Shropshire W.I. Federations 95th birthday celebrations. They were given a round of applause for a valiant effort as it turned out to be a bigger challenge than they had anticipated. Myfanwy Dulson presented certificates to Isobel Banham, Pam Doyle and Helen Williams for passing the Food Safety in Catering Course they attended at Shropshire W.I. Head Office. 6 of our members passed and the other 3 will be presented with their certificates at next months meeting.

Our speaker for the evening was Julia Wenlock of "Toot Sweets" Shropshire Chocolates. She gave a very interesting talk on where she sourced the ingredients and how she made her chocolates. Delicious samples were passed round including real Champagne flavoured ones, a touch of luxury!! We were able to purchase some chocolates she brought along too. She has a stall on Shrewsbury indoor market. After the talk she was thanked by Pam Doyle. Our competition of chocolate cup cakes was won by Ruth Dean with Ann Sadler 2nd. Our exhibition of a pretty plate was won by Ruth Dean with Vicky Crane 2nd and Isobel Banham 3rd. Our evening ended with a beetle drive. Our next meeting will be on 3rd June in the Miners Institute and our speaker will be Mrs Summer Wynn, showing us flower arranging and July 1st Living a Dream. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

ST MARTINS CRAFT GUILD

The Craft Guild was formed when St Martins decided to enter a competition to create a Village Map, which they won. Members of that initial group decided to continue meeting and to make things for local organisations, e.g. the Parish Church, the local band of bellringers, or for sale for charity. [The Village Map can be seen hanging in the Chapter House.] Nowadays the Craft Guild meets in the Common Room at Cedar Close on Wednesday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm. These days members can choose what craft they do; the majority knit or crochet while others sew, or cut out and machine-stitch for quilting, or make decorative things with beads. Members have decided that some of the items they make will be donations for charitable purposes – they decide in advance as a group which to support – in which case the yarn is provided from Guild funds for knitted squares and blankets, children's' wear etc, while those wishing to create things for their own purposes provide their own materials. If anyone coming along has forgotten (or never known) how to knit or crochet, other members will be able to show you how. Included in the weekly fee of only £1, which is charged to cover rent of the common room, is a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits.

St Martins Football Club

I became Secretary of St Martins Football Club in 1968 and Treasurer a couple of years later, at that time the team was playing in the Whitchurch League. In the early 1970's the league folded and St Martins entered the West Shropshire League progressing through 3 divisions, this league also folded and a new league was formed called the Shropshire Alliance League. After a number of years this league also folded and St Martins entered the Shropshire County League also progressing through the division and eventually winning the Premier Division and qualifying for promotion to the West Midlands League Division 2 under manager John Smout. The team managed to win promotion to Division 1 of the W.M.L. which is the highest standard St Martins have ever played in.

Because of the standard achieved the West Midlands League stipulates the dimensions of the playing area required to play in that division and because the pitch at St Martins was 10 yards too short, the Venue in Oswestry offered us the chance to play there but obviously everyone associated with the club would prefer to keep the football club in the village and play on their own village pitch but unfortunately the League would not allow it.

The 2013/14 season has just finished and manager Ryan Butcher and Damon Cheesman and the players they have signed, have done an excellent job keeping the team in Division 1 for next season and with this in mind St Martins need more helpers i.e. committee members; and playing at this higher level requires more funds. With this in mind the Club holds their AGM on Monday 26th May at the Keys at 7pm when new members can be voted on. A number of fund raising events will be taking place through the summer starting on Saturday 14th June a Past versus Present football match will take place on the football field at 2pm followed by a BBQ at the Keys.

Towards the end of June, training sessions will take place on the football field, any players interested in playing at the highest level of all local teams with the exception of Ellesmere who are in the Division above, PLEASE come along.

Other fund raisers will be published in the July issue.

D Stokes

Sec/Tres St Martins Football Club



St Martins Brownies



May

Badge work: the girls have been working on their gardening badge, planting edible foods like Broad beans along with a wide selection of herbs and fruits.

They planted a wild seed collection sent free from Kew gardens and made up the insect boxes to place in the garden.

They had a visit to Pentre Garden Centre to learn more about how things grow and what we can do to help them grow.

A BIG BROWNIE weekend away to celebrate a 100 years of Brownies.

19 of us went to PGL activity centre Boreatton near Shrewsbury.

Some of the activities on offer were Archery, Orienteering, Climbing wall, aero ball, and the list goes on picture to follow at a later date. A great time was had by all.

June

We have a visitor coming to talk to us about bees bringing his bee suit and helping us to understand the importance of bees.

The Brownies have been invited to The British Iron Works for a Birthday picnic and to have a look around. There will be lots of cake, quiz and games.

Last year the Iron Works donated a lovely Rose Bench to the Methodist chapel garden for the Brownies and community use.

July

The Brownies have the opportunity to have a night with birds of prey watching those fly, touching and asking questions.

Brownies will be completing more on their Season Badge work as well as any individual interest badges they like to complete.

Brownies hope to end the summer term with a Big Brownie Birthday Party on a date still to be arranged.

We have a hard working pack of girls eager to build on their likes and dislikes.

We learn new skills each day and these build the person we become so well done to the brownies, Duke of Edinburgh girls, the helpers, to the many speakers to the group and to Girl Guiding 100

If you are interest in becoming a Brownie, Rainbow or Guide you can go to: www.girlguiding.org.uk or just give me a call on the number at the back of this magazine. Heather Lloyd


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