

What's on in April

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Tues 3rd	WI : June Self "Talking about Singapore"	Ifton Miners Institute Lounge	7:30pm
Sun 8th	Green Gym	Ifton Meadows Colliery Entrance	2:30pm
Tues 10th	IMMC Committee Meeting	St Martins Centre	7:30pm
Wed 11th	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club - Late flowering Perennials	Weston Rhyn Institute	7:30pm
Thurs 12th	Parish Council Meeting	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sat 14th	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club - Annual Plant Sale	Weston Rhyn Institute	10:30am
Sat 14th	Big Local BIG CELEBRATION	St Martins School	1pm—4pm
Sat 21st	Car Boot Sale	Playing Field/St Martins Centre	1pm—3pm
Sat 28th— Sun 5th June	May Madness	Park Hall Farm	

What's on in May!

Please let us know the time and date of events in June and July for the next edition of Village Life by no later than **Friday 13th May 2016**

If you send us an article for the next edition, please bear in mind that it will be delivered at the end of May, so any events you report on will have happened before then. If you want to mention any upcoming events or activities please make sure they are in June and July (or later).



Star Singers

Left picture: Year 6 Choir competed at the Oswestry Youth Music Festival last week and were awarded 3rd place in the 12 and under category. The adjudicator commented on their enthusiasm for singing and their clear diction!

Right picture: Three vocal soloists competed at The Oswestry Youth Music Festival last week. They sang the test piece 'Moon River'. There were 18 competitors in the section. Melissa Hughes was awarded joint third prize. We are very proud of them all. *From left: Callan Fox, Melissa Hughes and Callum Price*



World Book Day was celebrated in full force on Thursday 3rd March. We had some excellent costumes on the day from both Primary & Secondary students and teachers. Students were issued with their official £1 Book Token and were excited to rush to the shops to spend them!

Above: Mrs Twit & Toy Story's Jesse with our Primary winners, including Mr Stink and an Oompa Lumpa.

Right: Year 7-9 winners, including Bilbo Baggins and Paddington Bear.





St Martins School is committed to providing an excellent learning environment – and not just for those in compulsory education! We have a brilliant record for working with student teachers and have just welcomed 8 more across Primary and Secondary to work with our dedicated and experienced teachers. Welcome to Jess Davies, William Vaughan, Gemma Macey, Mark Richards, Jo Owen, Caroline Tomley, Stephen Carter and Kelsee Pugh; we look forward to working with you this term!



Mock Exams took place for our GCSE students 29th Feb - 11th March. There were triumphs, nervous tears and some last minute panic but overall we're very proud of how our students approached their exams. Students need to use this practice-run to prepare for the real things. Art preparation has started already with their first exam in April and all other subjects start exams in May. Teachers are holding regular time tabled revision sessions during lunch, after school and Saturday mornings so

please encourage your child to attend revision sessions – every session counts!

Entertainment and learning go hand in hand when you look in all the right places. That's why we invited popular author A.F. Harrold in on Friday 18th March to hold a work shop with our students about the Fizzlebert Stump series. We're also excited about our upcoming events in June (parents note this down, it'll creep up on you otherwise!) Mon 6th June - M&M Productions return to perform another fantastic pantomime; Alice in Wonderland. Mon 13th June - Anthony Pedley is coming in to perform his lively one man show, The BFG. Letters will be issued to students in due course.

Birthday Time! In March two of our valued staff celebrated very special birthdays. Happy Birthday to Jacky and Celia from all staff and students! We hope you had a lovely time celebrating – we certainly enjoyed eating all the cake!



Reminders:

Easter Break: Good Friday 25th March – Monday 11th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May

May Half Term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

St Martins Supporters Club is looking for new members. Call 01691 776500 and ask for Mrs Ellis or Miss Devismes for more information. We're hosting the Three Parishes Big Local meeting on Saturday 14th May.

Student admission: If you are thinking about sending your child here in September, or if there is a mid-term move on the cards, simply give us a call on 01691 776500 and we can arrange time for you to visit to see for yourselves how our close-knit community would support and nurture your child throughout their school career.

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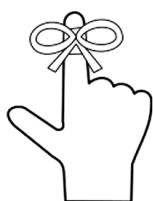


Apr 23rd: St George's Day

All you eat English Favourites help yourself buffet

£10 18:00-21:00

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Serving

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Function Room

Parties

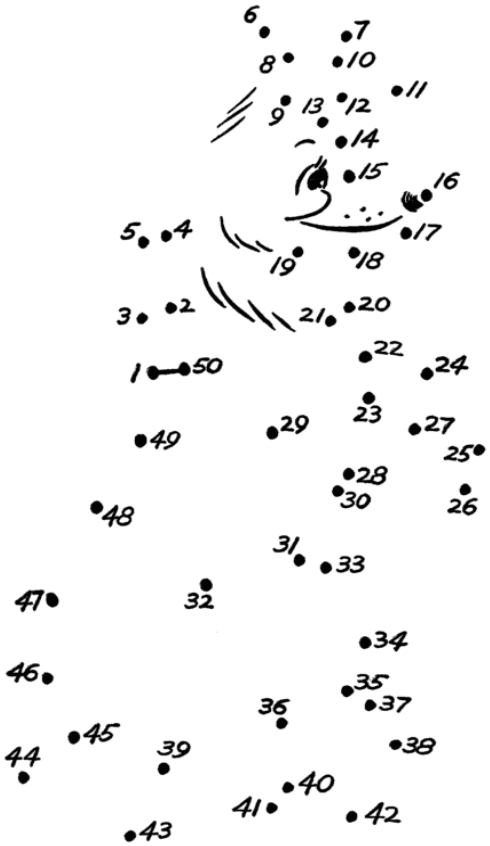
Conferences

Meetings

SUDOKU

Link the numbers.

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6	1		9			4
	4			3		5



Here's a great picture for you to colour





BIG

CELEBRATION

TRY SOMETHING
NEW, LEARN
ABOUT YOUR
COMMUNITY,
FUN ACTIVITIES
FOR ALL AGES

Birthday card for the
Queen Competition

SATURDAY MAY 14th

1PM - 4PM ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

Enter our competition

Create a 90th Birthday Card for the Queen

DRAW - WRITE - PAINT - PHOTOGRAPH - COLLAGE

Create your masterpiece and leave it at one of our collection points* by 5pm on Thursday May 12th. Don't forget to put your name, telephone number and age category on the back of your card (5 and under, 6-11 or 12-100+).

*Collection points: Qube, St Martins Centre, St Martins School, Gobowen School, Gobowen Library, Weston Rhyn School, Weston Rhyn Post Office

Including
Displays
Competition
Information
Refreshments

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Food For Thought



Where to this time, near or far? We had a brain wave, its years since we have been to the Lord Moreton and we heard that things had changed since our last visit, about ten years ago I think. Well it had changed and as we found out, it had changed for the better.

First off a pint of Station Bitter for myself and a small glass of house red for my wife. The bitter was in excellent condition which put me in a good mood for starters. My wife enjoyed the house red so that was a plus. We were shown to our table by a very smart polite young man.

The menu was much as we expected for an eatery of this type. All starters were under £5 and main courses under £10. On receiving our starters we were pleasantly surprised by the size of the portions, really good value for money. My wife chose nachos whilst I opted for mushrooms in Stilton sauce. The mushrooms came in a soup type bowl which was brim full, piping hot and in a really tasty sauce. My wife went for the poached salmon which came with a wonderful salad and buttered new potatoes, so many she couldn't eat them all! I am of the view that fish and chips should only be eaten out of newspaper (or similar) but on this occasion I decided against my rule and went for fish and chips with mushy peas. Again it was a good size portion and piping hot and on a hot plate. My wife declared herself too full for a pudding, but I went for the sticky toffee pudding. When it arrived my wife's eyes popped out of her head at the size of the portion and the waiter immediately brought us another spoon without being asked. Nice touch. A very pleasant evening which cost just over £40.

The only down side was a family with a small child under school age who (in our opinion as it was 8.45pm) should have been in bed. Instead, he was allowed to run round making a lot of noise and was being encouraged by one of the adults with him. This struck us as disruptive for other diners and potentially dangerous to himself and others given that waiting staff were dashing round with hot food. Not thoughtful or considerate!



The Village Life Foodsmith

Condolences

Betty Roza died 22nd Jan 2016
aged 86 years.

Anthony Lewis (JR) Died on the 8th
Feb 2016 at the Princess Royal
Hospital, aged 51 years.

Wynn Bowen died on 8th March
2016 at the Wrexham Maelor
Hospital, aged 73 years.

Our deep commiserations to all the
families.

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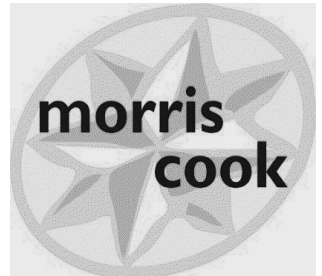
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DOG NOTICE

**THE DOG POO FAIRY IS ON STRIKE
TELL YOUR OWNER PICK IT UP AND BIN IT**

Dear Editor,

St Martins residents are fed up with cleaning children's shoes and pushchair wheels. Thoughtless dog walkers, usually at night or early morning, let their dog poo on the pavement, and don't pick it up.

In Spain, police ask you to show you have a bag if you have a dog with you. Instant 100 euro fine and name and address taken and if it happens 3 times you are in court. Police stop their car at any time and ask you to show you have a bag.

Maybe we should think of looking at all bye-laws in respect of dogs and start to enforce them.

Let us have people watching out at night for offenders, and let the dog warden know who the irresponsible owners are.

Under the clean neighbourhoods and environment act 2005, it is illegal not to clean up after your dog in areas to which the public have access and offenders could be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £80. Designated council officers and police community support officers can issue fixed penalty notices on the spot, however fixed penalty notices can also be issued if a witness statement is received from anyone who may have seen the offence being committed. Please note that council officers and housing officers will be carrying out surveillance and visits to St Martins.

Contact phone number 01691 677336, or report to the Parish Council, via email.

Regards Helen Williams.

If Your Dog Poops



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FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS



From time to time, you may recall, the management committee of Ifton Meadows turn their attention to the birch trees on the site. These are a mixed blessing. As a so-called pioneer species they are extremely good at colonising recently cleared ground, such as the old coal tip that underlies the Meadows. Left to their own devices



these hardy, shallow rooted trees with their abundant and efficiently distributed seeds would soon take over the entire site. Pretty as this might be, as a nature reserve we need to maintain a variety of habitats in order to support as wide arrange of species as possible. So birch trees on the hilltop we call the Skylark Mound need to be strictly controlled to maintain the grassland that encourages the ground nesting skylarks.

Conversely, birch trees in the right place are both attractive to look at and are closely associated with the growth of several types of fungi. They are sometimes known as “the lady of the woods” but they need room to grow gracefully. In the far corner of the Meadows is the flattish area we call the Birch Field, where there are numerous silver birch trees. In order to encourage the growth of fine mature “ladies” we have been beginning to cut back the scrubby specimens to give the maturing trees the space they need. We also need to encourage the development of a succession – some older trees, some middle aged ones and some younger ones that will eventually take over as the older trees reach the end of their 50-60 year life span.



Across the world birch trees of over fifty different types grow widely in northern temperate and arctic regions. Their timber is not generally highly valued, but native North Americans traditionally used the bark to make their canoes. In this country the wood used to be used for making charcoal but is now more commonly utilised for flooring and plywood. It has been found that birch trees contain the chemical betulin. Hence the botanical name for silver birch – *Betula pendula*. Betulinic acid has been found to act against malaria and HIV and extracts from birch have been used to treat snakebites.

For further information about birch trees you might like to visit the Kew Gardens website – www.kew.org.

Diary Dates: Tuesday 12th April and May 10th - 7.30 p.m. meetings at St.Martins Centre.

Green Gyms : Sunday 10th April and 8th May meeting 2.30 p.m. at Colliery Entrance further details can be found on our 'Friends of Ifton Meadows' group facebook page or st-martins on line. We welcome everyone to both our meetings and green gyms.



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FEBRUARY Report

President Shirley Willis welcomed all members to our meeting on 2nd February. We had a thank you letter from the Leonard Cheshire Homes for the Christmas gifts we had donated which said all the residents had enjoyed them very much.

Our National Federation Annual General Meeting this year will be held at Brighton on 11th June and it is the turn of Oswestry W.I. to supply the delegate representing our group. Our Shropshire Federation Annual General Meeting will be on 19th April at the Theatre Severn and Pippa Greenwood of Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time fame will be the afternoon speaker. I'm sure this will prove to be a very popular event.

This year we will once again be sponsoring a student from the Derwen College in their annual walk. Our speaker for the evening was Suzanne Ellison who gave a talk and demonstration on Energy Healing. This consists of tapping various points of the body. We all got a chart so we could try at home too. A bit like acupuncture without the needles. She was thanked by Barbara Aston.

Our Competition of a photo of a bridge was won by Isobel Banham, 2nd was Helen Williams, 3rd was Shirley Willis. The exhibition of a pretty cup and saucer was won by Isobel Banham, 2nd was Joyce Sands, 3rd was Alice Wilding. The evening ended with a beetle drive.



MARCH REPORT

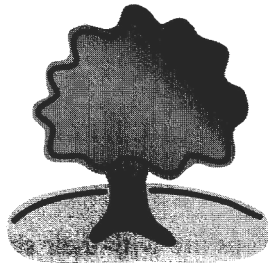
At the meeting on 1st March our President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone including Jill Doughty who became a new member this month. A letter from the Derwen College thanking us for sponsoring a student on their walk was read. Also a letter from St Martins First Responders thanking us for the Cheque which was the proceeds of our Centenary Recipe book and Christmas raffle.

Invitations for events at other W.I.'s were read. Names were taken for the N.F.W.I sports week and a group will attend The Edge Adventure Centre at Much Wenlock on 17th September to take part in events including Segway, archery and zip wire. Very brave Ladies, I will keep you posted on how they get on. Angela Ree will have an Oswestry Show meeting on 8th March.

Our speaker for the evening was June Self who very kindly stepped in at short notice when our original speaker was unwell. June spoke of her visits to Singapore and showed photos. She was thanked by Angela Ree.

The competition of 5 daffodils was won by Pam Doyle, 2nd was Ann Sadler, 3rd was Morfydd James. The exhibition of a pretty vase was won by Ruth Dean, 2nd was Helen Williams, 3rd was Isobel Banham. The evening ended with social time. Our next meeting on 5th April will be Jenny O'Leary on "My Textile Work". Visitors and new members are always welcome.

A ROBERTS



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- Trees pruned, trimmed & shaped
- Garden clearance
- Hedge cutting
- Patios and Fencing
- All rubbish removed

01691 770054

07725 819414

26 Cherry Tree Drive, St Martins
Shropshire SY11 3EQ



Len's Plaice

Opening Times

	Lunch	Evenings
Mon	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Tues	Closed	Closed
Wed	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Thur	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Fri	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Sat	11:30 - 2pm	Closed

01691772413

Closed Bank Holiday Mondays

Cedar Close Community Room

Weekly Activities

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

CHIRK HOSPITAL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.

Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends are looking forward to several fund raising events not least of which will be the Indoor Street Party to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday and which will be taking place on Saturday June 11th in Chirk Parish Hall from 2pm - 4.30pm and which will be followed with a grand Concert featuring Cor Meibion Dyffryn Ceiriog and a local silver band commencing at 7pm - tickets will be on sale nearer the date.



The popular Rummage Sales have resumed with the next one being Saturday March 12th 10am - 12 noon at Chirk Parish Hall with a further one taking place on Saturday 14th May also 10am - 12 noon - it seems that the enticing aroma of bacon butties is a real crowd puller!

On Saturday April 16th the Circle of Friends will be holding a grand Spring Craft Fair and already a good number of tables have been booked for this event all selling a vast array of crafts. This will be open from 10am - 1pm at Chirk Parish Hall and it is hoped that everyone will come along and support this special event.

At the end of 2015 a chance encounter at the hospital revealed the fact that it is 25 years since the new Community Hospital was built and to celebrate this event the Circle of Friends will be holding an anniversary cream tea at the hospital on Saturday July 16th from 2pm onwards - more details of this to follow.

Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends wishes to thank everyone for their ongoing support given in so many ways and all of which helps to ensure that the hospital provides the very best of care at all times with essential items such as the ultra sound scanner which is nearing its time to be replaced.

They particularly would like to thank a team of dedicated ladies who knit beautiful garments to sell at the hospital and who are led by Mrs Dorothy Worrall and Mrs Carole James- their fund raising efforts to date have raised a magnificent £3,000 - a fantastic achievement indeed.

CGL Homes have been very kind in building a set of shelves at St Martins Centre. There has been a problem in storing paper, there have been bits here and there, but now it is all in one place and easy for potential customers, who ask us about a printing project to see what paper we have in store and ready to use.

Since we had the new printer the quality of publication has increased several fold, as this publication proves. We can photocopy or print anything up to A3 size and reproduce photographs to a high quality.

Once again CGL Thank You.





Stop Loan Sharks

Anyone can be a victim of a loan shark – your family, friends, neighbours and even you.

It's not always easy to spot a loan shark as they come in all shapes and sizes and will at first appear friendly, just part of the community. It is when you can't pay that they will turn on you.

A loan shark is someone who lends cash as an unauthorised business.

If someone is struggling to pay a debt the loan shark will resort to threats, violence and intimidation to get what he thinks you owe, even if the debt has been paid off several times over.

A loan shark will typically have little paperwork and will add penalty charges for late payments. Sometimes they will add random sums to the bill.

Many victims keep paying because they think they can afford the agreed weekly sum, but they don't realise how much their continuing weekly payments add up to or they are too afraid to stop payments.

Our advice is that you should never go to a loan shark. They do not provide a community service; they are simply out to make money.

Loan sharks:

- Are running an unauthorised business under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000
- Often refuse to tell the borrower how much they still owe, or when they will finish repayments.
- Often increase the debt or add additional amounts.
- May take items as security - including passports, bank cards and driving licences.
- May resort to violence, threats and intimidation.



What is being done to stop this?

The Illegal Money Lending Team investigates illegal money lending and any related offences- in the past this has included violence, blackmail, drugs offences, threats, kidnap and even rape.

Mikes Story

Aged 17, Mike was keen to buy his first car. When Peter offered to lend him £250, Mike agreed and began paying back in instalments until the loan was repaid. It was only then that Peter mentioned additional interest. Mike wasn't expecting this and found it difficult to repay, so Peter offered him a further loan to pay off the first.

This became a cycle and continued over the next two decades, which Mike described as "Sheer hell". He was trapped in a never ending spiral of debt, and struggled to get by, despite working two jobs. He would make large repayments but his outstanding balance would never drop below £9,000.

Over the years Mike paid a staggering £90,000 to the loan shark, all from an initial loan of £250.

This had a hugely detrimental impact on Mike and his family. The loan shark attacked Mike in front of his children, he lost his home as he couldn't pay the mortgage and three jobs due to depression. Aged 33, he suffered a stress-related heart attack.

On more than one occasion, Mike attempted suicide.

"You wouldn't wish it on anybody" He said *"It affected my relationship with my wife. If I wasn't at work I was home arguing, and it affected the kids. They had nothing. Every*

Friday and Saturday he was sat outside my work - if I finished late he would text saying 'its payday where are you'. It was a living nightmare"

The turning point was when Mike spotted an article in his local paper about a loan shark who had been prosecuted by the Team.

Peter was now threatening to harm Mike's wife and realising he couldn't take any more Mike called the confidential hotline.

From that point forwards Mike was supported and Peter was prosecuted and imprisoned.

"I wish I'd known there was somewhere to go years ago" Mike said "The Team were fantastic, they offered so much support, and every promise they made they delivered. It was such a relief when I found out Peter was arrested and then put in prison. I nearly broke down when the Team rang to say"

Mike is now looking to the future, and has a message to anyone in the grips of a loan shark.

"I would tell anyone who is borrowing from a loan shark to be confident to stand up and speak out- the Team will support you the whole way. Even a year later the Team are always there for me, regularly in touch and always on the end of the phone.

Life is absolutely fantastic now- we don't have to worry about money anymore and I'm happier than I've ever been. Were going on holiday as a family for the first time in 17 years - I can't imagine ever being able to do this before

Contacting the Team is the best thing I could ever have done. I'm living the life I should be living"

If you think you may be involved with a loan shark, call the team in confidence on **0300 555 2222.**

Text 'loan shark + your message' to 60003
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Three Parishes Big Local March 2016

On



Saturday 23rd January, we held our first community event of 2016, The Big Chat. Thank you to everyone that came along, took part in the activities, left feedback and ideas for the Partnership, and enjoyed the free tea and cake! We have to re-write our plan this summer and we will be using your feedback and ideas when we develop the plan.

If you didn't make it to The Big Chat but would still like to contribute to our plan, please get in touch. We are particularly looking for feedback to the following questions:

I think my village would be better if.....

I think my village is held back by.....

I think *older people* in the 3 Parishes area need.....

I think *our kids* in the 3 Parishes would benefit from.....

I think *young families* need.....

When I was younger I would have benefitted from.....

My family really needs....

Our 'Design an Afternoon tea menu' was a huge success with over 150 entries received in total; over 100 of these were from the age 6-11 age category! The sheer number and quality of the entries showed that we have many local people who can be very creative. The prize winners in each category were:

Age 5 and under:	1 st Demi Harris	2 nd Izzy Heathcock	
Age 6 – 11	1 st Amy Elliot	2 nd Mollie Edge	3 rd Katy Laraway
Age 12 +	1 st Val Williamson		

Congratulations to all the prize winners. Demi, Amy & Val all won Afternoon tea at The Orangery, Derwen College.



The Three Parishes Big Local Partnership awarded a number of grants to local groups at their meeting in February. Community Chest grants have been awarded to the St Martins Village Life, Selattyn Produce & Craft Show, Gobowen Station project and 1st Gobowen Rainbows. There has also been significant interest in our Big Grants Scheme over the past few months and we hope to be able to announce some projects that we are supporting in the next issue of Village Life.

If you have an idea or would like to get involved with 3 Parishes Big Local, to keep up to date with the latest 3 Parishes Big Local news, or for more information,

Contact the Big Local Co-ordinator, Bridget Laraway:

Write to: Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, SY11 1RB	Tel: 01691 656882
Email: b.laraway@qube-oca.org.uk	Check out our website : www.big-local.org
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