



## St. Martins Village Football Club

are still performing very well on the pitch and now that the Cricket Season has finished Manager Jonny Mitchell feels confident that with the introduction of some new signings the squad will produce even better results for the up coming games.

Off the pitch, committee members have also been doing their jobs by securing some local advertising from local businesses and would like to thank

**BJs Gas, Peter & Dean's Construction, North Shropshire Transport, CTS Tyres, You Signs (Gledrid) and Border Temperature Control for supplying Banners** which are displayed at every home game played.

Finally to Border Temperature Control who are in the process of supplying the squad with a new kit and to John and Vicky from The Keys for supplying all the Lads with Training Jackets.

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## **What's on in December!**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
Fri 2nd	Keith—Country 60's 70's	The Keys	
Sun 4th	Sunday Social Club	St Martins Centre	3.30pm
Wed 7th	WI	Annual Dinner	
Thurs 8th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
Fri 9th	Mark Brown—Guitarist –90s New Songs	The Keys	
Fri 9th	Christmas Fayre	St Martins School	From 3pm
Sat 10th	Lighting of the Christmas Tree	Memorial Garden (opposite Stan's)	4.30pm
Sat 10th	Kev Thursfield Singer	The Keys	
Sun 11th	Green Gym	Colliery Entrance	1:30pm
Mon 12th	Shared Reading	The Fox, Oswestry	5.00pm
Wed 14th	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club— Christmas Crackers from your garden	Weston Rhyn Institute	7.30pm
Fri 16th	Sheryl 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s	The Keys	
Sat 17th	Universal Exports Band	The Keys	
Sat 17th	ICB Xmas Celebration	Miners Institute St Martins	7.30pm
Sat 24th	Still Standing	The Keys	
Sat 31st	Tilly Swats + Disco	The Keys	

## What's on in January!

Tues 3rd	WI "A Crime at Erddig?"	Miners Institute Lounge	7.30pm
Sun 8th	Friends of Ifton Meadows Green Gym	Colliery Entrance	1:30pm
Sun 8th	Sunday Social Club	St Martins Centre	3.30pm
Mon 9th	Shared Reading	The Fox, Oswestry	5.00pm
Tues 10th	IMMC	St Martins Centre	7:30pm
Thurs 12th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
Thurs 19th	Parish Council Finance Committee	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sat 21st	Family Disco Tickets £6.00	St Martins Centre	6pm

Please let us know the time and date of events in February/March for the next edition of Village Life by no later than **Friday 13th January 2016**

If you send us an article for the next edition, please bear in mind that it will be delivered at the end of January 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 February or March (or later).



# St Martins School News

Our Open Day and Evening this year was one of the best attended for some years. Visitors commented that our students who helped out as guides or subject experts were confident, self-assured and knowledgeable. What fantastic ambassadors for the school and the whole community!

**Our year 11 students from last year, their families and friends returned to school for our Achievements Evening, celebrating their contribution to our 'family ethos' and academic excellence. Guest of honour Mr Sean Lang, Head of S.T.E.M (science, technology, engineering and maths) at Moreton Hall who was very impressed with the level of commitment and hard work the students demonstrated. We wish them all every success in their chosen careers and are very proud of them and their achievements.**

## **Award winners were:**

The Kronospan Award for Geography – **Jake Riley**  
The Weston Rhyn Parish Council Award for History - **Connie Williams**  
The NFU/ Lloyds Bank Award for Religious Education – **Leyla Acar**  
The Health and Social Care Award – **Erin Williams**  
The Diamond Award for Health and Social Care– **Bethan Harrison**  
The Paddy Hughes Award for English– **Abbie King & Nathan Hayes**  
The Gwynfor Williams Award (Resistant Materials) -**Liam James**  
The Gwynfor Williams Award (Food Technology) - **Leah Tunnah**

The Sports Trophy – **Liam Roberts**  
The Science Trophy – **Connie Williams**

The Brian Case Trophy (French) – **Oliver McNally**  
The Longueville Gittins Award (Spanish) – **Tommy Pickles**

The HSBC Art Award – **Jack Purkiss & Morgane Siebert-Jones**  
The Juliet Woollam Music Award – **Abi-Gail Lewis**  
The Media Award – **Beth Edwards**  
The Ifton Drama Award – **Harry Haynes**

The Richard White Award for Expressive Arts – **Megan Hutton**

Award for Arts in the Community - **Lucy Duncan**

The Rhyn Park Dance Award – **Tom Hebson & Matthew Miller**  
The Barclays Bank Award for Mathematics – **Mollie Bott**

The Inclusion Award – **Maia Carruthers**  
The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Award for ICT - **Jordan Austin**

The Heather Bowyer Award for Learning Support / Independent Study -  
**Lucy Duncan and William Jones**

The Mary Lay Award for the student who made the greatest progress in core subjects -  
**Tommy Pickles**

Student of the Year - **Amber Pugh**





Governors' Award - Awarded by Year 11 to a member of the school community in recognition of assistance given during their time in school - **Ollie McNally**

The Jack Paxton Award for the student who has made the greatest overall contribution to the community - **Tom Hebson**

The David Hayden Trophy for the student who has achieved the most singular achievement in any aspect (Dance & Theatre) - **Matthew Miller**

The Everest Trophy for the student who has made the greatest overall contribution to the daily life of the school - **Megan Hanton**

The St Martins Parish Council Award for the student who has made the greatest academic progress during his or her time in school - **Jack Purkiss**



**Oliver McNally**

The Chair of Governors' Award in recognition of contribution to school improvement -

**Mr Jonathan Forster**

(Principal of Moreton Hall)

The Lord Robens Trophy for the female student who has gained the best external examination results - **Cariad Maddocks**



**Cariad Maddocks**

The Janet Warwick Trophy for the male student who has gained the best external examination results - **Oliver McNally**

**This year's Christmas Fayre will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm to 5pm.**

**There will be fun and games, prizes, refreshments, Father Christmas, carol singing, a raffle and much more!**

**We will also be giving you the opportunity to taste samples from our fantastic new catering team that will be providing our school with their services in January.**

**We would like to invite you to come along, have some fun and help us raise some money for our school. This year's money will be going towards new books for our libraries across the primary and secondary.**

**We would also like to ask for donations towards the Christmas raffle and prizes for other games. If you have a prize or prizes you would like to donate then please send in to school.**

Students are in good voice as we gear up for the Christmas performances with auditions and practice sessions at lunch and after school. Dates for the diary:

Christmas Performance year 1-3 – 6<sup>th</sup> December and in the evening on 7<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Performance year 4-5 – 7<sup>th</sup> December and in the evening on 8<sup>th</sup> December

Extravaganza – matinee performance at 4.30pm on 12<sup>th</sup> December, evening performance on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December

Carol Service – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2pm, St Martins Parish Church

School closes on the 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm

**We return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – and we wish all our students, staff, parents and the community a happy, safe and healthy new year!**



# **2016 has been the Year of The House**

**and it is nearly over.**

How casual was the remark from a friend, “Why don’t you build your own on the garden?” when we were discussing downsizing for our senior years. Sounds like a great idea, doesn’t it?

We think we have had it relatively easy, mainly due to choosing the best builders in the whole world. From lifting of the first turf to near-completion has been 10 months of almost non-stop work.

Would that we could be as complimentary about the utility companies or the council, both of whose fees have added significantly to our costs and thereby limited our original plans.

When one moves to a house, even a new build, one compromises: we want 3 bedrooms so we can live with that kitchen, don’t like the bath but the garden is the right size, etc. Where does one start when building one’s own? Our architect was a huge help just getting us going: look at what you have now, consider what you would like better, make a wish list and we’ll go from there.

We had to have 3 bedrooms to accommodate the family coming back to visit.

We have always lived in our kitchen and like the space so we measured what we have and kept that.

The house is to be for our senior years so downstairs we needed a shower room and a separate room that could be used as a bedroom later.

The rest was the detailed wish list.

The architect came up with a design. We couldn’t afford it. Houses are charged by the square foot ... then you double it! He sucked it all in which made it rise, of course, and the staircase which we wanted to be straight (Effie has struggled to carry too many elderly patients down twisting staircases) had to be curved. Ah well, compromise!

There was then a long pause as we sought planning permission and tried to find the right builder. We quickly discovered that few builders are interested in individual projects, but we stumbled upon Colin who runs Tai Dyfi Homes, a small timber-frame building company, in mid-Wales. As soon as we met him we knew we had the right man.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December last year we took a deep breath, signed the contract and poured a huge drink. We have not regretted it, though three months later, when the digger tore the turf from what had been Effie’s mother’s carefully tended lawn our stomachs did heave.



Colin's "lads" have toiled from 8.15 – 4.30 with half an hour for morning break and half an hour for lunch, not a moment more, every day. They have been up to their knees in swilling concrete and mud with the rain lashing down and the roofers were burnt to a crisp during the hottest week of the year, but they would not take even a cup of tea from us. We have been regularly consulted along the way about everything with pros and cons spelled out and alternative costings provided. We quickly became aware that Colin was a perfectionist and on at least one occasion realised from the look on his face that a choice we had made was not up to his standard. Needless to say, we swiftly had second thoughts.

With his guidance and attention to detail we have managed to keep within budget practically all the way through. Some of the surrounding groundwork has had to be left until "Stage Two" when, we hope, we shall have money available from the sale of our old house. Leaving Comet House after 36+ years will be a wrench, but at least we don't have far to move and we can take our time doing so.

Many of you who are reading this have already been very complimentary about our new house and for this we are most grateful. Our neighbours have been really supportive and to them in particular we extend our thanks publicly, especially as they have suffered most from the inevitable disruption and inconvenience. We don't suppose that they, like us, will forget the day when the frame of the house was delivered on the back of a large lorry and lifted over the hedge into the garden.

With luck we should be in the new house by Christmas, but Effie has already threatened that Christmas dinner will be cooked in the old house to avoid messing up her new cooker. And, in the interests of continuity, we have been allowed to call our new home "Comet Cottage".

Effie and Leslie Cadwallader

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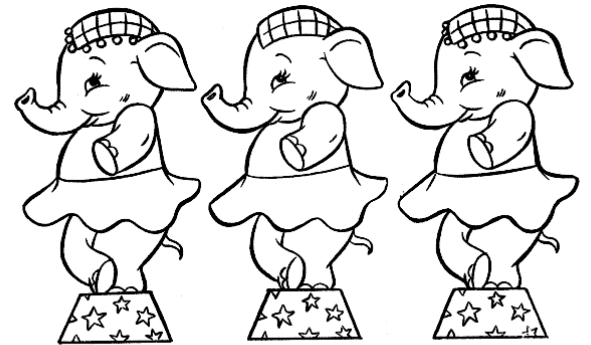
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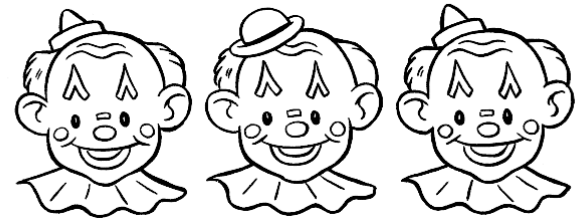
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# SUDOKU

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FIND THE ONE THAT IS DIFFERENT.



Here's a great picture for you to colour

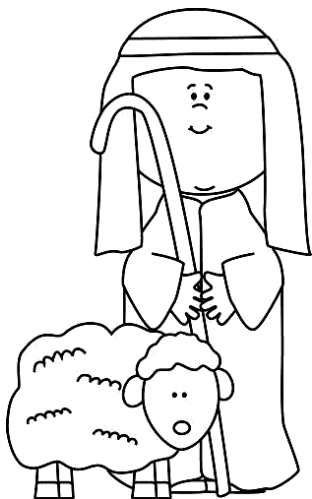


# Christmas Word Search

Find these 40 hidden words below. The words go up, down, across, diagonally, even backwards. What does each one have to do with Christmas?

ADESTE FIDELIS	FRANKINCENSE	JOY	NOEL	SHEEP
ADORE	GIFTS	LORD	PEACE	SHEPHERDS
ANGELS	GOLD	LOVE	PRAISE	SILENT NIGHT
BABY JESUS	GRACE	MANGER	PROMISE	SON OF GOD
BETHLEHEM	HAY	MARY	PURE	STAR
CHRISTMAS	HOPE	MESSIAH	REDEEMER	THREE KINGS
COW	INN	MOTHER OF GOD	SALVATION	TOWN
DONKEY	JOSEPH	MYRRH	SAVIOR	WORSHIP

A N G E L S P U R E R O D A T  
 D Z R C T H R E E K I N G S H  
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 S B C W S P M R E G N A M F I  
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**Saturday - 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Sunday - Closed**



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# **IMMC/Friends of Ifton Meadows LNR**

Chairman's Report - for November 2015 to September 2016

The December meeting was our usual meal out - 2015 we chose the Greyhound.

Green Gyms: took place 2nd week of each month (weather permitting).

In November we dug out two channels in the silted up pond, allowing the water to flow on either side and making an island in the middle. It is obvious that some of the silting is being caused by coal dust, you could taste it while we were working. Our efforts were rewarded with no flooding despite persistent heavy rain. January we split into two parties one working on the Pen y banc hedge whilst the other group coppiced the growth on one side of the pond allowing light in and reducing the amount of leaves falling into the water. Over the following months work was carried out on the Birch field, Brownie Meadow and other areas. August saw us cutting back and tidying the Colliery entrance.

Drainage Rods have been purchased and used to clear blocked drains. Work on the site is ongoing.

The sale of the Horse field was completed in 2015, some of the land had been sold to Mrs Lewis and the remainder was returned to the site when the lease ended in April 2016. Over the Summer it was left fallow to allow the flora of the site to be monitored. It was then cut in September in time for us to hold an event. Two picnic tables have been placed in the field.

The 'Party at the Meadows' was held on the afternoon of the 10th September. We were joined by the Brownies, St. Martins WI, Scouts and 3 Parish Big Lottery. A grant from the 3 Parish Big Lottery enabled this event to take place. We had 'the Silverman' entertainer, various stalls, barbeque and refreshments. Many thanks to Steve Davenport (barbeque) and the Brownies (refreshments) and WI who very kindly donated their takings to help cover costs. A steady number of people attended and the 'sweep nets' were particularly popular.

Shropshire Council have recovered the path to the Mosaic making it smoother and therefore easier for wheelchairs and buggy's and also removed the bridle gate and straightened out the dog leg at the Colliery entrance making much needed extra car parking. On the down side when they cut the grass it was deposited on site to form an unsightly mound and as we all know grass does not rot down very easily. This is something we must watch in the future.

Following the extreme cutting of the skylark mound last year it has recovered well, numbers of skylarks seem to be down on previous years but hopefully this will improve in 2017. Council have again cut one third, a rotation of one third cut each year is the recommended amount for this type of area.

Unfortunately like many other public areas dog fouling is still a problem, with this in mind we have asked our local councillor to investigate the use of 'Kingdom Security' who have had success reducing litter and dog fouling in the Wrexham area.

In preparation for 2017 over the next few months we shall be looking to make a new 'Management Plan and following up on putting both the Horse and Railway fields officially into the Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Many thanks to everyone who has supported us over the last 12 months especially 'Pentre Nurseries' who donate the money they make from second hand books to our funds.

Many thanks also to the 'Friends' who work each month both on and off the Meadows. Over the last 12 months we have registered 465 hours of voluntary work and that is only the hours we remembered to write down.

Anyone interested in nature is welcome to both our meetings and Green Gyms.

Ann Williams - Chairman Oct. 2016

# CHIRK HOSPITAL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.

Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and wishes to thank everyone for all their very generous support given over the past year to the Circle of Friends with their fund raising efforts.

We also would like to warmly invite you to the following forthcoming events:

## Thursday December 8th

Chirk Hospital Christmas Tree of Light which will commence at 2pm with the children from the Pentre, Fron and Garth Federation School Choir singing carols for patients, staff and visitors. This will be followed with the reading of the names of those being remembered with a star on the Christmas Tree of Light and will conclude with the serving of seasonal refreshments and also the Christmas Raffle being drawn - all welcome to come along. Should anyone wish to remember a loved one on the tree of light then they may do so at Chirk Hospital, Chirk Health Centre, Chirk Library or by calling 01691 773642 or 01691 772321.

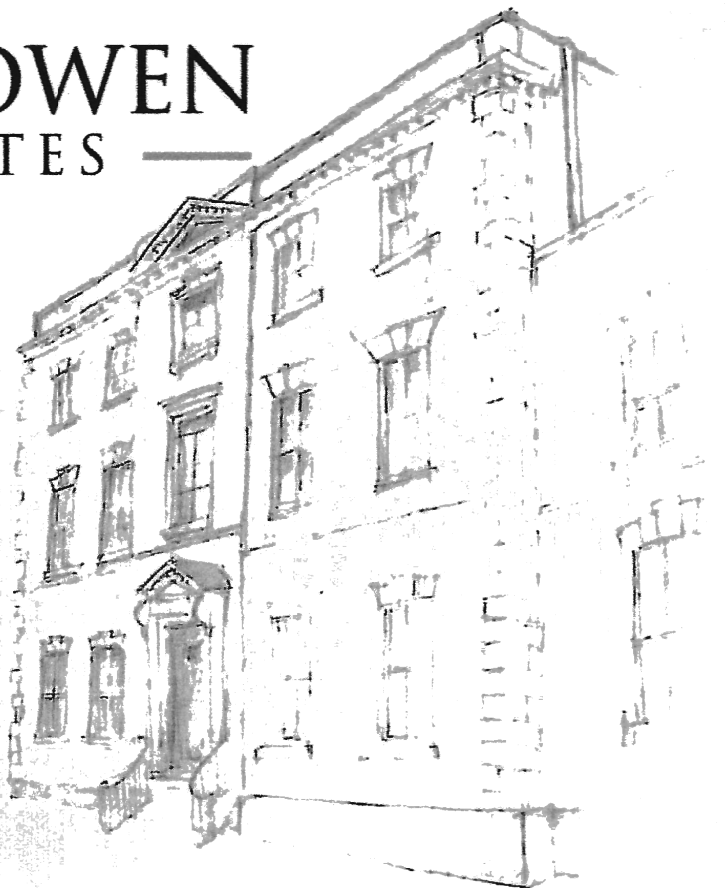
**Saturday December 10th-** Christmas Craft Fair at Chirk Parish Hall from 10am - 1pm with lots of festive hand made goodies on sale.

**Monday December 12th-** Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church Chirk, at 7pm with Llangollen Silver Band and the school choir of Ysgol Dinas Bran, Llangollen. Donations to Chirk Hospital Circle of Friends and the Chirk and Weston Rhyn Branch of the Orthopaedic Hospital League of Friends



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## **Sunday Social Club**



Our first two Sunday Afternoon Socials were a great success. The people who attended had an enjoyable afternoon with lots of conversation, cups of tea or coffee and sandwiches and cake.

We have therefore decided to continue with this Club which will take place on the

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month**

the next date being the

**4th December at 3.30pm**

and the following one on the

**8th January** at the same time.

Please therefore feel free to join us and if you wish to contact us for more details or have difficulty in travel please call:

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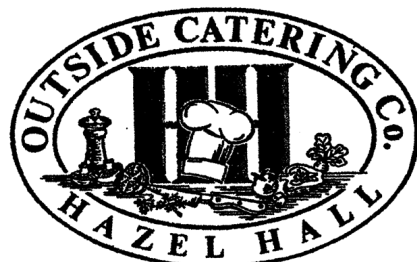
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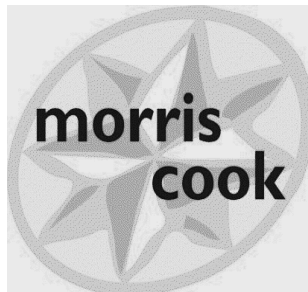
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## **OCTOBER**

St Martins W.I. was very busy in the last week of September seeing us attend our Annual Group Meeting hosted this year by Gobowen. They provided a very entertaining evening and delicious refreshments. We hosted the County Autumn

Ramble too. We had 65 people from all over Shropshire converge on St Martins to take part in 2 rambles, one for 3 miles and one for 7.5 miles. They saw the best that St Martins has to offer from the lovely views up on Ifton Meadows Nature Reserve, to the Catwalk, and then into Glyn Morlas Valley and Rivers' Ceriog and Dee at Rivers Meet. They were very impressed and surprised at our wonderful countryside, they ended up back at The Chapter House for refreshments. Our October meeting continued the nature theme with our speaker Kristian Hickson-Booth giving a talk on container gardening. With her slides she showed some beautiful colourfully planted containers to enhance a patio, or even a small space if you didn't have much room. Also using shrubs and grasses to very elegant effect. She was thanked by our President Shirley Willis. We had 5 visitors at our October meeting so hopefully some of them will consider joining us.



## **NOVEMBER**

After the success of our Tie Die Workshop in October run by St Martins W.I. for the local community with the aim of increasing our membership and with funding from The Big Local, 20 people went away with beautiful silk scarves they had dyed themselves.

We are confident that several of them will join our W.I. in the New Year. At our November 1st meeting our President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone including 2 visitors. Our speaker was Carol Allen of Llanvalley Natural Products. She keeps goats and makes soap and skin care products from their milk. She showed us slides of them and we all fell in love with these cute goats and their kids. We hosted a Tea Party for Contact the Elderly on 20th November and invited some other local people living alone whom we heard would benefit.

We also had an exciting outing on 22nd November in Chester for a Christmas Show and Lunch, including 60's Themed entertainment. There were also gifts on sale. Some of our more adventurous ladies dressed in 60's style!!! There will be no meeting in December because we have our Christmas meal instead. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Tuesday 3rd January at The Miners Institute at 7.30 pm. Our speaker will be telling us about a crime from the olden days when a servant from Erddig was accused of theft. We have to decide if she was guilty or innocent, very intriguing! Why not come along and join us.

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*Proprietor: Lance Collings*

## Condolences

Guy Evans who died 9th October at the age of 25. The whole village will sadly miss Guy.

Judy Watt who died 8th October after a battle with cancer, peacefully in the Severn Hospice.

Peter Lawn who died 3rd November

Norman Barton died at home 10th November

Our deep commiserations to all the families.

## Huw Manford

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## What a busy year 2016 has been for 2<sup>nd</sup> St Martins Scouts.

From multi-storey bug hotels, backwoods cooking and Scout camps to bicycle rides, village rambles and fireworks, the action has been non-stop at the Scout hut and out in our community.



One community event we were proud to be part of recently was the St Martins Remembrance Sunday parade, working with other local groups to remember all those who died in conflict. Helping to teach a new generation of children about those lost during war, taking time to remember those who fought for our freedom.

Baden Powell, founder of the Scout movement, described a set of 'Scouting principles' which include 'connecting with others, lifelong learning, being mindful of the world around you and helping others'.

Coming together as one community on Remembrance Sunday fulfils these principles. It is this coming together as part of a wider community that perhaps accounts for recent newspaper headlines: 'Scouts and Guides grow up to have better mental health'.

A study of adults with a scouting or guiding background found they were less likely to be anxious or depressed in later life. The results might also have something to do with a love of nature and the outdoors that we encourage.

This Christmas we'll be encouraging our young Scouts to think of others in the community, with donations to the foodbank and by keeping an eye on elderly neighbours.

As 2016 draws to a close, we'd like to thank all those organisations who supported our special events this year including The Greyhound who supplied hot soup on our night hike, The Jack Mytton Inn for hosting our summer bike riders and supplying refreshments and Stans Superstore and Wrexham Reptiles for donations towards our bonfire night celebrations.

Keep an eye out for us if you visit Stans on Christmas Eve when we'll be doing our annual bag pack to raise vital funds to keep the group running in your community.

With all good wishes for Christmas and New Year from all at  
2<sup>nd</sup> St Martins Scouts



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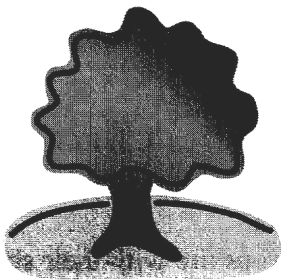
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## Len's Plaice

### 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

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## **Three Parishes Big Local** **September 2016**



A big 'thank you' to everyone who came along to our Public meeting at St Johns Church on 28<sup>th</sup> September where we officially launched our Community Plan. If you didn't manage to come along to our meeting and would like to find out more, our Community Plan is available on our website, [www.big-local.org](http://www.big-local.org) or by contacting Bridget or Paula.

### ***Enterprise Support***

One aspect within the Community Plan is to support local enterprise.

Through our community consultation and focus group meetings with local business people we have developed an Enterprise Support Programme which will:

- Raise the profile of local business, services and craftspeople
- Provide support for business start-ups
- Provide training and access to specialist advice
- Develop business networks / buddies / forums for exchanging information and ideas
- Provide loans and grants to small businesses
- Provide loans and grants to people for training to enable them to access employment (e.g. HGV licences).

If you would like to know more about this programme and how it could help your business, please contact Bridget.



### ***“Messenger” is here!***

Hopefully you will have had an opportunity to see a copy of the 'Messenger', either in your 'inbox' or a printed copy in your area. Is there anything that you would like to see in future editions? If so,

please let us know.

If you would like a copy emailing to you direct, please send a message to: [messenger@big-local.org](mailto:messenger@big-local.org).

You can pick up a copy at various points in the area... including: Stans, School, Vets, St Martins Centre, Kebab Shop, Lens Plaice, Surgery, hairdressers, Pretty Vintage and more... thank you to the locations for allowing us to leave copies there.

If you have an event or activity that you would like us to promote, please send us an email or give us a call.

**Got any ideas? Like to get involved? Want to keep up with 3 Parishes Big Local news? Contact Bridget, Paula, or the Three Parishes Big Local Partnership:**

**Write to: Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, SY11 1RB Tel: 01691 656882**

**email: [b.laraway@qube-oca.org.uk](mailto:b.laraway@qube-oca.org.uk) – [p.pugh@qube-oca.org.uk](mailto:p.pugh@qube-oca.org.uk)**

Check out our website: [www.big-local.org](http://www.big-local.org)

Like our Facebook page: 3PBigLocal and Follow us on twitter: 3PBigLocal





WESTON RHYN

• ST MARTINS

• GOBOWEN

# Village Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, make a difference in your local community as well as gain new experience and have fun. To find out about opportunities right here in your village:

## Come and chat to Alex at:

**St Martin's Centre** - 1st Tuesday of the month 10-12

**Gobowen Library** - 2nd Tuesday of the month 10-12

**Weston Rhyn Institute** - 3rd Tuesday of the month 10-12



### Gobowen Central Library - 'Friends' Volunteer

Are you friendly and community minded? Join a group of enthusiastic volunteers helping with events such as children's activities & coffee mornings.

#### *Skills required*

Just a desire to support this venue and resource for the community.

### Age UK - St Martins Day Centre Helper

We are looking for helpers on Tuesdays to serve refreshments, help with a range of social activities and provide company for members.

#### *Skills required*

Someone with a sense of fun, who is friendly & approachable.

**If you would like to know more please contact Alex on 01691 656882  
Or you can email [volunteering@big-local.org](mailto:volunteering@big-local.org)**



Weston Rhyn • St Martins • Gobowen



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