

Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

Welcome to our first edition for 2017.

You may notice that this issue has only 36 pages rather than the usual 40, not for any deliberate reason, but simply because we received less articles to publish this time.

We always welcome more, so if you want to report on anything, put in information about a club or group that you belong to, or if you have something you want to get off your chest in a letter, you are welcome to share it with the rest of St Martins by sending it to the email address given below or by dropping it into the Centre marked for the attention of Village Life.

In this edition though there are a few new initiatives that are either starting up or developing quickly. At long last it looks as if we will have some help from the police in trying to cut down on speeding traffic through Community Speed Watch, while the future of the former Ifton Heath School site is to be reviewed by a Parish Council working group and Shropshire Council.

You will also see the latest news on the progress of the Ifton Colliery Commemorative Project who will be holding a social evening for ex-miners and families at the Miners Institute on 18th February.

Finally, on behalf of the Editorial Committee I would like to thank the WI for their kind donation of their Christmas Raffle proceeds to Village Life – a most welcome gift at the start of the New Year!

John Stevens (Chair of the Editorial Committee)

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**If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication
please email it to stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com
by no later than Friday 10th March 2017**
.....

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www.stmartins-online.org.uk/villagelife

This publication will be delivered FREE to every household within the Parish of St Martins.

Should you not get one please email

stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com

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

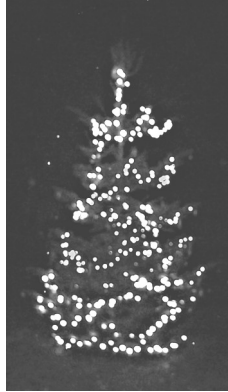
Parish Council

From the Chair

Hello Everyone. I hope you all had a very happy Christmas and are looking forward to an exciting New Year. The switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights was again marred by the weather - it started out dry but as we got going there was a slight drizzle and it just got heavier and heavier. A Big Thank You to all that managed to stay to the end. Ruby was chosen from a dip in the hat by Paul Milner, Mayor of Oswestry. Thank you Paul for sparing the time in your very busy schedule to come out to the village and give us a hand.



It is not often that I am able to say that Shropshire Council has backed up the Parish Council but in this case I am



happy to say that it is TRUE. Nick Scott contacted our clerk to ask for a meeting with regard to the hedge from the entrance of Hollands Drive up to Garden Village. It was not possible on the date he suggested but we invited him to come to our full council meeting on December 8th and there was a rather long conversation as to the legality of removing the hedge, having placed evidence to prove that the condition laid down by Shropshire Council preventing the removal of the hedge without further planning permission. We left him with no doubt as to general feeling of the council, that as this is a rural village, metal picket fencing is not acceptable as it is more of an urban image. We took our complaint to the planners who agreed with us and wrote to Mr Scott reinforcing the agreed conditions for this development, which included the preservation of the hedge rows.

UNSUNG HEROS

There are lots of great people in the village that have worked in a voluntary capacity for many years without recognition. The Parish Council would like to change that and recognise the extraordinary efforts that individuals have put in. We have had two in the past, Derek Stokes and Nick Heard, both exceptional men who have given un-numbered hours and days into their chosen areas.

I invite you to nominate our next Unsung Hero by writing a letter to me, Sue Schofield, 6 Greenfields, SY11 3AG, telling me about a person who has gone the extra mile to keep a group going, who continues to input into that group whether for young or for older people. You might think of others who make a real difference in this village for the people of this village. Please don't nominate any parish council member. Your nomination needs to contain contact details for both yourself and the person you are nominating, the group they are involved with and why you think they need a 'pat on the back'. Nominations need to be with me by the 1st of March to be included in the next edition and votes by the 3 April. The award will be given at the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 20th April 2017.

Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

St Martins Parish Council Report – January 2017

The January Parish Council meeting was held in The Community Centre, St Martins.

With the Christmas and New Year period occurring since the last meeting, this one was very short as there was very little to report.

The Parish Council welcomed Nina Mistry as a new member of the Council. This brings the parish council up to full strength of 15 before the next Local Council elections on the 4th May 2017.

The latest police update on local incidents had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting. Adnan Ali, Community Speed Watch (CSW) Co-ordinator for both the West Mercia and Warwickshire Police had informed the Parish Council that following the enquiry from St. Martins in August 2015 via a member of the Safer Neighbourhood team (SNT) they are now in a position to offer CSW to St. Martins and the next step is for volunteers to be recruited.

The police have a criteria and a procedure in setting up CSW and St Martins has gone through this procedure successfully. The road of most concern identified is the Overton Road, between Stans Superstore and The Keys. This section of road is where we would look to set up a group. Other areas can be considered at a later date.

They require a minimum of six volunteers to form a group, one of which is nominated as group leader. There is no limit on the amount of members that a group can have. If the roads are suitable for Community Speed Watch then they carry out a risk assessment on the roads and choose the locations where the volunteers will stand and conduct their activities. The Safer Roads Partnership provide all training and equipment to get the scheme going. Anyone wishing to be considered should contact the Parish Council Clerk on 01743 366420 or at clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk for further details.

On highway matters, concern was expressed over the lack of road markings off Cottage Lane following the completion of the new development, a damaged road sign in Clerk's Lane plus fly tipping in this area and recent repairs to the road surface either side of Escob bridge, which were done to a poor standard, now breaking up again and being washed away.

The next meeting of the parish council will be a Full Council Meeting on Thursday 9th March 2017 at 7.00 pm in The Community Centre, St Martins.

Edward Davies. Fellow ILCM, St Martins Parish Clerk

Current Parish Councillors

Ashley Allum	01691 770042
Andrew Cast	01691 773389
Gordon Fryer	01691 774520
Neil Graham	01691 778427
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
Brian Herbert	01691 772647
James Hoos	01691 661218
Duncan Laing	07702 991 845
Nina Mistry	01691 657324
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
Lesley-Anne Roberts	01691 776438
John Lewis	01691 774676
John Sands	01691 772394
John Stevens	01691 770677
Sue Schofield	01691 777710

Shropshire Council

Councillor Steve Davenport

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

Tel 07944097876 Email steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk

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Happy New Year to all,

Although Christmas now seems a distant memory, how time flies.

By the time this goes to print America will have a new leader and Theresa May will have delivered her first Brexit speech. Interesting times ahead and I'm sure we all have our views on the future.

But back to village life in St Martins.

We have got the safer roads partnership to form a group to help reduce speeding offenders making the roads safer for us all,



With regards to the future of the former Ilfton School site we have now formed a joint group consisting of representatives from Shropshire Council (including myself) and St Martins Parish Council. I will report on suggestions as we move forward but at the top of the list will be the retention of the old part of the School building.

And as far as my work within Shropshire Council is concerned, I'm putting as much pressure as I can on the CCG to retain an A&E unit in Shrewsbury as I think this is just logical to do.

If you have any view on this that I can use please don't hesitate to contact me .

Also we have various pot holes and lamps not working and these are in the process of being put right ,

Again if you think that there are long standing issues we might have missed please let me know ,

My contact details are at the top of this article, but I am often in the St Martins Centre during the week so please come and have a chat.



# St. Martins Parish Church

## Service times

**Sunday:** 9:30am our usual Morning Worship Service

## **Sunday FIRST Messy Church**



**5th Feb & 5th March at 11am.** A short family service with songs, Bible story and prayer and afterwards coffee, cake and some **craft activities**.

## Weekly Events

Our Website [www.stmartinsparish.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsparish.co.uk)

**Home groups** meet at different times - see weekly notices.

**Tuesday** Coffee morning at 10:30am in the Chapter house.

**Thursdays** 9:30am Mid week service in church.

**Fridays** 7:30 St. Martins and Weston Rhyn Church Youth Group (12-19yrs) currently meeting @ St. Johns Weston Rhyn. info: Janet on:777396

**Our Mothering Sunday Service is on 26th March at 9:30am**



**Weddings - make 2017 your year to celebrate with family and friends.**

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You could do the **reception** in the Chapter House (the hall adjacent to the church) and save money that way just as one family did recently.



**To book a Christening or Wedding and for any other enquiry please contact Val Thompson on 01691 658756; email: [valerie100a@aol.com](mailto:valerie100a@aol.com).**

**Or check out our Website [www.stmartinsparish.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsparish.co.uk)**



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# IFTON COLLIERY

In November 1968 the colliery closed.

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Come and share some memories, meet some old mates and find out more about the plans to commemorate the end of that era.

**Saturday February 18th 2017**

**£3** To the St Martins Institute **£3**  
At 7:30pm

## Ifton Colliery Band

will play some of the tunes from that era.

**Hot pot will be served.**

There are limited numbers so get yours from  
St Martins Institute, Stan's Superstore & Terry Ellis(778208), Ken Hinton  
(777873), John Stevens (770677)or Sue Schofield (777710)



# St MARTINS FC

Recent weeks have seen many changes at St Martins Football club. Nick Durman is now established as club secretary and doing a great job! Club steward Andy Joseph is our new Treasurer and alongside Nick, we feel, will form a sound basis for the future.

The resignation of Ryan Butcher came as a shock. However the committee do understand how time consuming the managerial role can be and Ryan's wish to be able to spend more time with his young family was fully appreciated. Ryan has given our club excellent service both as a player and manager and we wish him well for the future "THANKS RYAN".

We now welcome back to the club for his second spell as manager, Craig Rogers. Craig is well known to us all and with Dave Bennett alongside as his assistant, we feel that given time, results on the field will improve and the recent performance against runaway League leaders, Hereford, was very encouraging.

On October 8<sup>th</sup> the Venue hosted a wonderful evening of celebration to honour Derek Stokes' amazing record of 50 years as both secretary and Treasurer of our club. The occasion was very well attended by ex-players and representatives from many local football clubs. Also joining us were members of the Shropshire F.A. and the West Midlands League. They spoke of Derek's fine achievements as both player and secretary of St Martins F.C. and also told us of the high esteem in which Derek is held in football circles. "THANK YOU DEREK" for those many years of local service. Many thanks must also go to Derek's wife, Susan, who I am sure has been very supportive and "understanding" down the years "THANKS SUE".

Many members of the community contributed some wonderful prizes for the evening draw and it was much appreciated. The ladies who sold the tickets also deserve "thank you". Well Done.

Andy Joseph once again showed his talents as compere for the evening and his wife Sam deserves a Big Thank You for decorating the tables. Thanks also go to Patrick Williams who travelled from Manchester to provide us with the background music.

The immediate future will hopefully see us improve on the pitch and off it. We hope our fundraising projects will bear fruit. The first of which will be our Christmas Draw and I'm sure the village will support us as they always have and last but not least everyone at St Martins Football Club would like to offer sincere condolences to the family of Guy Evans. Guy's untimely death came as a shock to all at the club who knew him. We remember him well when he travelled with us to away games to give us support. Also I believe on one occasion he actually donned a shirt and took the field as a late substitute!

## **"A LITTLE GUY WITH A BIG HEART"**

The September winner of the 100 Club draw was John Hands, No. 33 and October Lucky Winner was No. 95 Janet Walford.

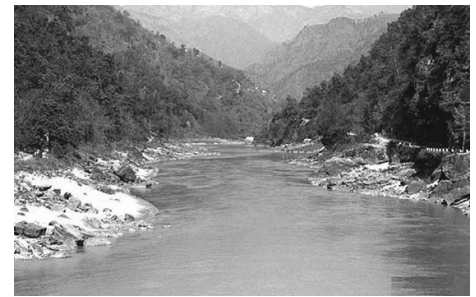
Peter & Terry

*This article was for the November edition of Village Lift, we apologies to St Martins FC for failure to include it in the last publication. We hope that it does not detract anything from the heart felt sentiments expressed in the article, we at Village Life would also like to join with you in expressing our esteem for Derek and our sadness at Guy's passing.*





# Quiz January 2017 (Answers on page 11)

1. What is Donald Trump's middle name?
2. Who is the current England football manager?
3. Who is Prince Harry's latest girlfriend?
4. In mathematics what is the square root of 3600?
5. Dutch is one of the three official languages of which country?
6. What common name is given to the crane fly on account of its long spindly legs?
7. To what creature does the word apian relate?
8. What word beginning with 'C' is a charge made by a restaurant for serving wine brought in by a customer?
9. Baggy Trousers was a hit single in 1980 for which group?
10. Which river is the most sacred to Hindus?



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# St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister: Rev. Heather Wilson 01691 769164

**Thursday Coffee Mornings 10.30 - 11.30**

Come along and join us for coffee, biscuits & a chat.

|                     |                                        |                                                           |                                  |                                                |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| St Martins<br>10.00 | February 5 <sup>th</sup><br>J Molyneux | February 12 <sup>th</sup><br>Rev Wilson<br>Holy Communion | February 19 <sup>th</sup><br>AWT | February 26 <sup>th</sup><br>At Moors<br>11.00 |
| Moors<br>11.00      | At St Martins                          | Rev Wilson<br>Holy Communion                              | J Williams                       | M Bennett                                      |

## **St Martins Youth Club**

**Friday evening sessions 7.30 – 9.00 (term time only)**

**All young people age 10+ welcome.**

**£1 entry (activities free)**

### **Fusion Arts Oswestry**

*Every Saturday 6.00 – 8.00*

*All young people age 10+ welcome. £1 entry.*

*PS4, XBOX ONE, Arts & Crafts*

***St Martins Centre***

# Condolences

**Mary Hurdsman** died December 19th, peacefully at the Severn Hospice Shrewsbury

**Laurna Borland** who died in Chirk Hospital on 12.1.17. Laurna was always very happy to be part of the St Martins community.

Our deep commiserations to all the families.

1. John
2. Gareth Southgate
3. Meghan Markie
4. 60
5. Belgium
6. Daddy Longlegs
7. Bees
8. Corkage
9. Madness
10. Ganges

**Quiz Answers**  
From page 9.



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## Scout and about



2<sup>nd</sup> St Martins Scouts is looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

From multi-storey bug hotels and backwoods cooking to bicycle rides, village rambles and water games, the action in 2016 was non-stop at the Scout hut and out in our community.

On yer bike!

Scouts cycled along the canal in May, making a pit-stop at the newly refurbished Jack Mytton Inn. Joanne Jarnell greeted the Cubs and Scouts with jugs of squash and a place to rest, before the group was on its way back to Moors Lane.

Thanks to support from St Martins School, our young Beavers were able to practise their cycle skills from the safety of the school car park. Debbie Jones, supported by Luis Arias, Vicki Evans and Ceri Priestly were able to cover biking basics against clear blue skies.

Soaring members

As temperatures rose during the summer, so did members. Debbie Jones, Beaver Leader is thrilled that recruitment activity has seen a rise in new leaders, section assistants, helpers and children with the arrival of Keith Allum, Vicki Evans – now the treasurer for the group - Ceri Priestly and Luis Arias.

She said:

“We now have 2 regular leaders and 2 section assistants at Beavers. They are all parents who are helping to make a massive difference to our group.”

“The numbers of children more than doubled last year, I’m over the moon.”

In fact there were so many new members, the Beavers began meeting at the earlier time of 5pm, with Cubs meeting later at 6:15pm to give everyone enough space at the hut.



### **Gift of giving**

Children were thrilled once again to be invited to the annual St Martins light switch-on, where they all enjoyed the gift of giving by bringing a donation for the Oswestry foodbank.

The children donated food urgently needed by the local charity including ketchup, sweetcorn and mashed potato.



# ST MARTINS COMMUNITY

## FIRST RESPONDERS

Another year has passed and John and I have gathered together all our statistics for 2016. You may be interested.

Between us we attended 829 jobs. 266 of those were in Oswestry, 138 in St Martins and 119 in Ellesmere.

147 were to falls, 92 to breathing problems, 76 to chest pains, and 63 to patients who were unwell in some form or another.

Our minimum on-call time has been 6 hours in a day. Mostly we have covered 17 hours per day (07.00 – 23.00) and there has not been a single day when neither of us was booked on at all.

We had 1 call out on Christmas Day and one on New Year's Day.

The car has done 7,526 miles on jobs this year (reimbursed by the ambulance service) and a further 1,320 miles moving between our homes and taking us to training and re-qualification courses (paid from our own funds donated by you, thank you).

As we head into 2017 I should remind you that you cannot contact CFRs directly. We are despatched by the ambulance service only after a 999 call has been made. We are then covered by WMAS insurance.

Please remember that a 999 call is for an Emergency, while a 111 call is for something Urgent that isn't necessarily an emergency. The Minor Injuries Unit in Oswestry is there for minor injuries and Shropdoc should be called if you need a doctor outside surgery hours.

The pharmacist in Stans gives free advice.

The tricky bit is deciding which one is the best one for you!

---

*Scout report continued*

### Vital funds

Huge thanks to everyone who supported our bag-packing challenge at Stans on Christmas Eve, with special thanks to managers Andrew Faulks and Justin Smart for their sweet treats and for letting us loose on their customers!

In our biggest fundraiser yet, we raised over £1,500 in donations that will go towards keeping local membership fees affordable and a range of outdoor equipment and activities to support the development of our children.



Beavers meet on Mondays at 5pm to 6pm; Cubs meet Mondays at 6:15pm to 7:30pm; and Scouts meet Wednesdays 7pm to 8:30pm. Contact Barry Evans on **07921 838120** if you would like to know more.

Wishing you all the best for the year ahead.

2<sup>nd</sup> St Martins Scouts

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# Spanish Classes at the St. Martins Community Centre



Hi, my name is Gail and I am the Spanish tutor at the St. Martin's Centre.

Are you interested in learning Spanish or improving the Spanish language that you have already acquired? Here at the St Martin's Centre there are Spanish classes open to all throughout the year.

The next 8 week Spanish course aimed at **improvers/intermediates**, for those who already have a good background knowledge of the language, begins on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 1.30pm.**

If you are interested in attending this course **or would be interested in attending a beginners course** please contact the Centre on 01691 770204 or just pop along to see what we have to offer. If you need any further information just leave your details and I will contact you.

We look forward to meeting you.

## St Martins Centre

(Charity Reg. No. 1088872)

Overton Road St Martins SY11 3AY. Tel: 01691 770204 Email: smartinscentre@mail.com

Office is Open Monday - Friday 10am till 2pm

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**Monday Night Curry Night 5pm-8pm**

Curry and a pint £8.50

**Tuesday Night Fish Night 5pm-8pm**

Beer Battered Cod, Breaded Plaice, Scampi or Salmon and a pint £9.95

**Wednesday Night Steak Night 5pm-8pm**

Rump Steak and a glass of wine of your choice £12.00

**Thursday Night Sizzler Night 5pm-9pm**

Any Sizzler and a pint £10.50

**HAPPY HOUR TIMES MONDAY—FRIDAY**

**2PM-6PM**

|                        |              |                      |              |                            |
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| <b>Fosters</b>         | <b>£2.50</b> | <b>Guinness</b>      | <b>£2.70</b> | <b>Real Ales All £2.50</b> |
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# St Martins Village F.C

Over the months of December & January the weather has taken its toll on the Mercian Regional Football League with Clubs now trying to play catch-up with postponed fixtures but we have started 2017 running with two on the bounce wins, with a 3 - 1 victory over COVEN UTD and then a local Derby win at home when we hosted OSWESTRY TOWN RESERVES taking all 3 points with a comfortable 4 - 2 win helping to push the Village lads further towards the League leaders.

Please keep supporting us !!!!!!!

We will be putting team fixtures on the Community Centre Board as well as at The Keys.

## "BRINGING FOOTBALL BACK TO THE VILLAGE"

### Fixtures

|          |                    |   |                    |                            |
|----------|--------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 04.02.17 | St Martins Village | v | Riverside          | @ St Martins Playing Field |
| 11.02.17 | St Martins Village | v | Brown Clee         | @ St Martins Playing Field |
| 18.02.17 | AFC Broseley       | v | St Martins Village | @ Birch Meadows Broseley   |
| 24.02.17 | St Martins Village | v | Albrighton FC      | @ St Martins Playing Field |

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## What's on in February!

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Event</b>                                        | <b>Venue</b>                   | <b>Time</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
|             |                                                     |                                |             |
| Sun 5th     | Sunday Social Club                                  | St Martins Centre              | 3.30pm      |
| Tues 7th    | WI<br>Cardiac Arrest in the Young                   | Lounge<br>St Martins Institute | 7:30pm      |
| Wed 8th     | Weston Rhyn Gardening<br>Club<br>Whitehurst Gardens | Weston Rhyn Institute          | 7:30pm      |
| Thur 9th    | St Martins Parish Council                           | St Martins Centre              | 7pm         |
|             |                                                     |                                |             |
| Sun 12th    | Green Gym                                           | Colliery entrance              | 1:30pm      |
| Tues 14th   | IMMC meeting                                        | St Martins Centre              | 7:30pm      |
|             |                                                     |                                |             |
| Sat 18th    | Ifton Colliery<br>Miners Get Together               | St Martins Institute           | 7:30pm      |
|             |                                                     |                                |             |
|             |                                                     |                                |             |