

## What's on in February!

Sun 5th	Sunday Social Club	St Martins Centre	3.30pm
Tues 7th	WI Visit to Upstairs Downstairs	Oswestry	
Wed 8th	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club Climbing & Wall Plants	Weston Rhyn Institute	7:30pm
Thurs. 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

Please let us know the time and date of events in April/May for the next edition of Village Life by no later than **Friday 10th March 2017**

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

# IFTON COLLIERY

EST 1916

Off the back of a very busy Christmas period the band have just competed in the Butlins Mineworkers Championships at Butlins Skegness which were held on 14<sup>th</sup> January. The band played the piece "The Lion and the Rose" and were rewarded with 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Third Section together with some wonderful comments from the brass band media.



The band are now looking ahead to the Third Section Area Championships which are held in Bedworth on 11<sup>th</sup> March where we are looking to win and secure a promotion to the second section as well as the Brass Band Finals to be held in Cheltenham in September. This will be the band's main goal of 2017 but we also have a very busy and varied programme of events planned, together with some exciting news about the new training band to be set up in the near future.

Further details will be provided in the next edition however if you wish to know further information about this or wish to come and listen to the band please feel free to come to see us. We rehearse Sunday evenings 7 until 9 in the St Martins Community Centre.



# Village Volunteering

Village Volunteering is a Qube project that aims to **spread the word about local volunteering opportunities and support people to become involved in local community groups**. It is funded by the Three Parishes Big local Programme.



Volunteering is a great way to get to know people, help in your local community and gain new skills and experience; and there are lots of opportunities available locally with things such as admin, helping the elderly or outdoors conservation.

Come and find out more about volunteering opportunities in the area at one of our **drop in sessions**. They are on the First Tuesday of every month in the **St Martins Centre**. The upcoming dates are:

10am-12pm on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

10am-12pm on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

10am-12pm on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**



There are also drop ins in Weston Rhyn and Gobowen. For more information contact **Alex Drury**, Volunteering Officer at Qube - **01691 656882** or email [volunteering@big-local.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@big-local.org.uk).

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<p><a href="http://www.homefixplumbingandheating.co.uk">www.homefixplumbingandheating.co.uk</a> email: <a href="mailto:homefixplumbing@yahoo.co.uk">homefixplumbing@yahoo.co.uk</a></p>		

# St Martins School News

The School Council met with Sue Schofield this week to talk about her planned sponsored swim.



Sue is the chair of the Ifton Colliery Commemorative Project who are in the process of commissioning a statue which will stand in the Memorial Garden (by Stan's). In 1968 the Colliery closed it's doors for the last time, the statue will be an ever lasting memory of that time. It is hoped to unveil it in November 2018 to mark the 50th anniversary of the closure.

The cost will be significant (it will depend on which of the 2 possible statues as to the cost) and Sue's swim will help. She says "swimming is something I love doing so I felt it was a good way to fundraise for this project" and that "I am looking to raise at least £1000 pledges before I set a date and time but it will be at the St Martins Sports Centre at the School, which the miners originally paid for".

Sponsor forms are available from: Sue Schofield, Terry Ellis, Ken Hinton, and John

## **St Martins Amenity Areas**

The Parish Council invites suitably qualified persons to express an interest in the St Martins Parish Council Litter Picking contract starting on the 1st April 2017.

Those interested can register their interests with the Chairman, Sue Schofield, at [suescho@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suescho@hotmail.co.uk) or with the Parish Clerk, Edward Davies, at [clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
by 28th February 2017



## **A FOND FARWELL TO A VILLAGE HERO**

St. Martins football club are sad to announce the passing of our Hon. Secretary Derek Stokes aged 78

As many of you will be aware, Derek was the backbone of our club for many years, taking on various roles, manager, treasurer, secretary, kit man, linesman and even as a player well into this 50's.

He was a successful player for the club and won many individual and team accolades in his time with us.

Chairman Terry Ellis on behalf of the club: "Our thoughts go to Sue, Simon, Martin and the family at this sad time. Derek meant the world to us all"

## **RIP Derek**

*All at Village Life would like to add their heart felt condolence's.*

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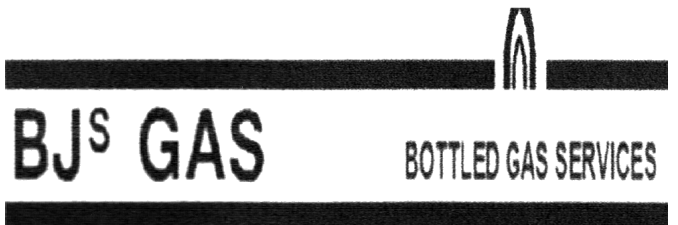
**Wednesday - 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Thursday - 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Friday - 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Saturday - 10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Sunday - Closed**



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**Saturday - 09:00 - 13:00**



# SUDOKU

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

If  $1 + 2 = 3$

$3 + 4 = 21$

$5 + 6 = 55$

Then  $4 + 5 = ?$

Here's a great picture for you to colour





# Word Search

## Pet Words

### INSTRUCTIONS:

FIND AND CIRCLE THE PET WORDS IN THIS PUZZLE. WORDS MAY BE FOUND ACROSS, DOWN AND DIAGONALLY.

### PET TIP:

PETS CAN BE WONDERFUL FRIENDS IF YOU RESPECT THEM AND GIVE THEM LOTS OF PROPER CARE. BE GOOD TO YOUR PETS AND HAVE FUN WITH THIS PET PUZZLE!



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

- |           |            |             |              |
|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. DOG    | 7. HAMSTER | 13. COLLAR  | 19. BIRD     |
| 2. PUPPY  | 8. GERBIL  | 14. TREATS  | 20. FISH     |
| 3. CAT    | 9. FERRET  | 15. BEDDING | 21. EXERCISE |
| 4. KITTEN | 10. RAT    | 16. WATER   | 22. CARE     |
| 5. BUNNY  | 11. MOUSE  | 17. FOOD    | 23. TRAINING |
| 6. RABBIT | 12. LEASH  | 18. PARROT  | 24. LIZARD   |



# Ifton Meadows

## Management Committee

As we write at the beginning of the year our thoughts are of new beginnings. On the second Sunday of the year we worked on the hedge near the Colliery Entrance – the one at the end of the Horse Field that was inadvertently chopped down last year. We have planted a number of small saplings along the old hedge line. You won't notice them yet as they are only small beginnings, but when the Parish Council provides us with some larger specimens you will be able to see some new growth. Our aim is to provide a biodiverse wildlife corridor at the entrance to the reserve. Hazel, Bird Cherry and Wild Plum will eventually provide food for birds and small mammals while the branches will provide perching and nesting opportunities.



After our work at the Colliery Entrance we went over to Price's Dingle, thinking of the snowdrops that will soon begin to herald the start of another growing season. However, our work was not with the forthcoming snowdrops, but with the detritus of the

old year. We dug out silted up drains, removing large quantities of accumulated sand. This work will stop erosion and maintain good drainage across the pathway. We also cleared the rotting leaves off the boardwalk as they had reached the stage when they become slippery and potentially hazardous.

But to return to snowdrops – or *galanthus nivalis* to give it its botanical name. This part of the country is richly endowed with this charming plant. Its name *galanthus* is derived from two Greek words meaning milk flower, and it is also sometimes known as the flower of hope. The Countryfile website – [countryfile.com](http://countryfile.com) – gives nine things you might not know about snowdrops, including that the bulbs are poisonous if eaten. It also reminds us that under International Convention it is illegal to collect bulbs from the wild. Snowdrops are tending to appear earlier in the year than they used to and the spectacular display at Chirk Castle is expected in early February.

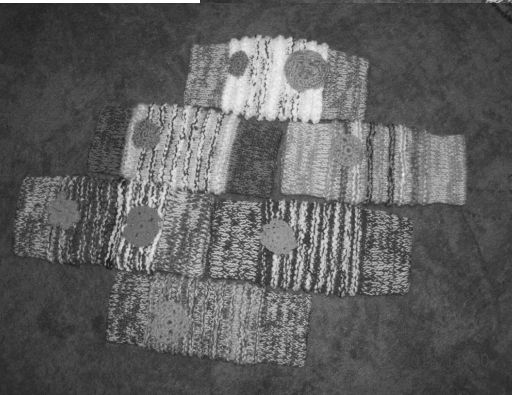
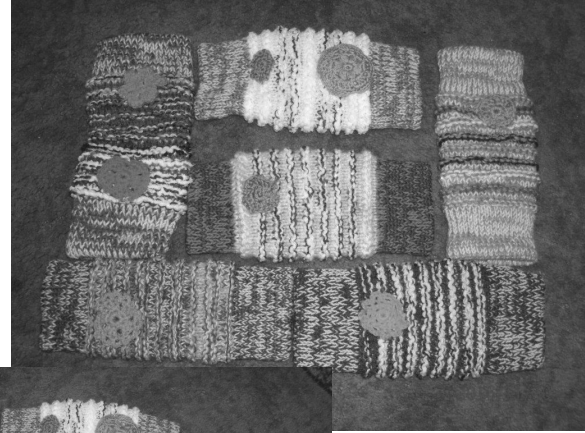
In our work on Ifton Meadows the small group of volunteers are only able to achieve a fraction of what could be done. If you visit and enjoy this beautiful site perhaps you could join us in the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month to help maintain this valuable asset to the community.





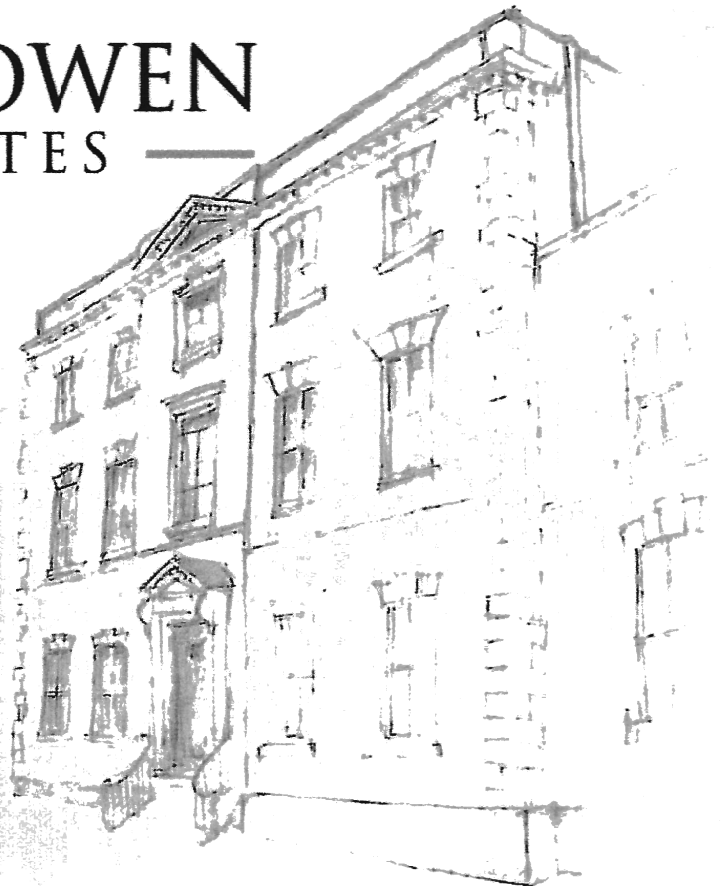
The ladies of **St Martins Craft Guild** have been busy knitting and crocheting hats, garments and blankets for poor and underprivileged Portuguese babies and children.

Also they have been knitting 'twiddle muffs' for dementia patients in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.



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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 at St Martins Centre Lounge on the

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

the next date being the

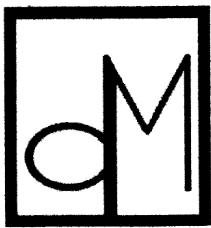
**5th February at 3.30pm**

and the following one on the

**5th March** 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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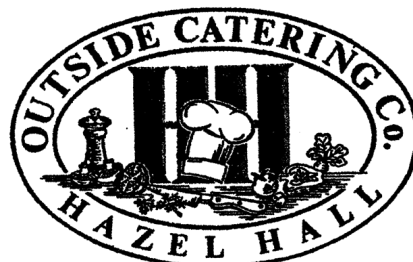
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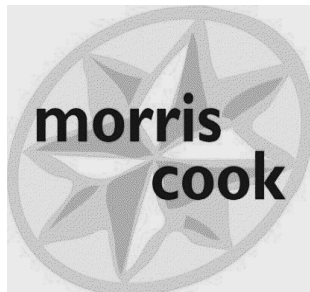
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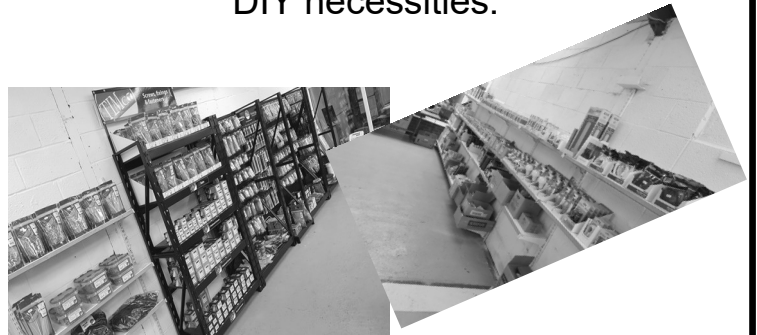
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On 6th December we had a short meeting at which the Competition Cup was presented to Ann Sadler, 2nd was Shirley Willis, 3rd was Pam Doyle. The Exhibition Cup was presented to Alice Wilding with Helen Williams and Shirley

Willis joint 2nd. Our President Shirley Willis also presented Orchid plants to Alice Wilding and Isobel Banham and thanked them for the years they had served on the committee from which they are both now retiring. 29 members and friends then enjoyed a very nice meal at The Greyhound, Overton Road. We had a raffle and a quiz. The raffle proceeds have been donated to The Village Life Magazine. At the end of a very enjoyable evening Shirley wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.



## **JANUARY 2017**

St Martins W.I. got off to a good start at our meeting on 3rd January after our President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone and wished us all a Happy New Year. We then went on to vote where we will go for our annual outing on August 1st. We decided on Gregynog Hall Gardens. Gregynog is situated in the stunning Montgomeryshire countryside and offers a mixture of Grade 1 listed formal gardens and woodland walks, which include a Lily lake, a Bee Apiary and stone statues. There is also a Courtyard Cafe and gift shop. So something for us all to look forward to come the Summer. Angela Ree asked us to come up with ideas for the Oswestry Show table top competition, the theme will be "On The Farm". Our speaker was Sue Lloyd from Erddig Hall and gave a slide show and very interesting talk of the history of the hall. We were then told the story of 32 year old Ellen Penketh a cook/housekeeper who came to Erddig in 1902 to work for the Squire Philip Yorke and his new wife Louisa Yorke. They gave lavish dinner parties and despite only ever having been a cook previously she was expected to run the whole household and was constantly told to keep costs down whilst they gave increasingly larger dinner parties. She was accused of stealing £500 from the accounts in 1907, a sum equivalent to £28,000 in today's money. She never had a penny to her name and no one could ever trace her having any money tucked away. We had to decide on the evidence if we thought she was guilty or innocent. It turned out she was acquitted at Ruthin Assizes, but was never able to work in a big house again. The whole thing backfired on the Yorke family as it came out in the newspapers they only paid her the salary of a cook and the other staff only half the going rate. What a sad but interesting tale. Shirley Willis gave the vote of thanks. Our next meeting will be on 7th February when Sue Dewhirst will talk about cardiac arrest in the young.

You can find us on Facebook if they type in exactly as follows:- [www.facebook.com/StMartinsWI/](http://www.facebook.com/StMartinsWI/)

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## The Cellar Church?

Over the last couple of years you may have heard of us. At The Cellar Church, our aim is to live out the Gospel message as the Bible directs us – that is to lead people to salvation through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and at the same time serve our community and those in need around us. We are known as ‘The Cellar

Church’ or ‘TCC’ because our first venue was located underneath the old Town Hall in Ellesmere in what used to be a wine cellar.

The Cellar Church was established in March 2014 and has grown rapidly from 11 regular attenders and 1 child to upwards of 80 and nearly 20 children! As a result of this growth in August 2016 The Cellar Church relocated from the centre of town to the Ellesmere Business Park. We now have a fantastic venue more suited to our needs and one which allows us to consider our next steps as part of God’s plan. As we meet together in an informal cafe-style setting to worship, pray and study the Bible, our desire is to continue to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Ellesmere and beyond.

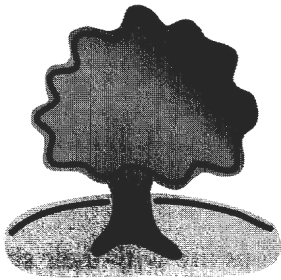
Our purpose statement currently is, *Through love we glorify God by making and growing disciples* and our mission; *Sharing Jesus, Sharing Life*. These statements explain what we are about as a church.

We meet every Sunday at 10am for around an hour – come early and stay late for tea, coffee, biscuits and fellowship. We also have a network of Life Groups that meet weekly and we attend regular Christian events around the country. If you would like to find out more or keep up to date with TCC please find us on Facebook, give us a call on 07711986694 or visit our website at [www.cellarchurch.co.uk](http://www.cellarchurch.co.uk)



**Rainbows** is for girls age 5-7 years and is exciting, messy, friendly and lots of fun. Rainbows meet on Mondays at 6.00pm until 7.00pm at the Methodist Chapel, Ellesmere Road. For more information contact Heather on **01691 778598** or **07854 799 058** or to register your child's interest visit <https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk//>

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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** **January 2017**



Three Parishes  
**Big Local**  
Weston Rhyn • St Martins • Gobowen

## **Free Training Course – Writing Exceptional Grant Applications**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 9:00 – 16:15 at St Martins Community Centre, Overton Road, St Martins.

Would you like to learn more about how to develop and write grant or funding applications for your organisation or community group? As part of our commitment to developing skills and to bringing more grant funding into the area, we have arranged this training course for residents or people who are involved in community groups based in the Three Parishes Big Local area.

Places on this free course are limited and must be pre-booked. For more details about the course and to book your place, please contact Bridget or Paula on 01691 656882.

## **New for 2017 – “My Money Matters”.**

Financial exclusion and basic money management skills were identified as areas of concern in the early stages of the Three Parishes Big Local programme. In our first 2 years, we have started to tackle this by promoting Credit Union Services in the local area but the aim of our “My Money Matters” project in Years 3-5 is to tackle a number of different, but inter-linked, issues.

We will be working with local organisations to create new services and to promote existing money-related services that will include debt advice and opportunities to learn about budgeting and ways to save money. Look out for more information on our Facebook page, on noticeboards and in village magazines over the coming months.

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

Listed below are some contact details that you may find useful if you would like to speak to someone about debt or money worries, including rent arrears and any benefits that you may be entitled to:

The Money Advice Service – 0800 138 7777 - [www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/tools/debt-advice-locator](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/tools/debt-advice-locator)

Citizens Advice – Oswestry – 0344 499 1100 - [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/)

Citizens Advice – Wrexham – 0344 477 2020 - [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/)

FAIRshare Credit Union - 01743 240403 - [www.fairshare.uk.com](http://www.fairshare.uk.com)

Stop Loan Sharks - 0300 555 2222 - [www.gov.uk/report-loan-shark](http://www.gov.uk/report-loan-shark)

**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)**

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Qube has a dynamic, hands-on Board of Trustees which is looking for enthusiastic people with professional skills, business acumen or relevant life experience to join them in taking Qube forward.

Qube, which is located in the centre of Oswestry, offers a portfolio of essential community services including; Community Transport, Shopmobility, Care information, Volunteering, Arts and Learning.

Applicants should be willing to actively participate in Board meetings which are held approximately 5 times per year and be able to work effectively as part of a team. This is a voluntary position in which you will be making a significant contribution to the wellbeing of our community. Volunteering as a Qube Trustee could also be a valuable opportunity if you are seeking to develop your career to a more senior level.

For a confidential discussion or to register your interest please contact Laurel Roberts on 01691 656882 or

email: [l.roberts@qube-oca.org.uk](mailto:l.roberts@qube-oca.org.uk)

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