

## What's on in April!

Tues 2nd	WI Visit to Derwen College	Derwen College	
Thurs 4th	Local Council Elections	St Martins Centre	7:00am to 10.00pm
Sun 7th	Sunday Social Club	St Martins Centre	3:30pm
6th - 7th	Cardiac Screening for 14 to 35 year olds FREE	Oswestry School (appointment needed)	See page 13 for details
Tues 9th	IMMC	St Martins Centre	7:30pm
Thurs 11th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm
Fri 12th	Village Life AGM	St Martins Centre	10.00am
Sat 13th	Ifton Colliery Dyffryn Geiriog Male Voice Choir	St Martins Miner's Institute Tickets £5	7:30pm
Sat 13th	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club PLANT SALE	Weston Rhyn Institute	7:00 pm
Sun 14th	IMMC - Green Gym	Colliery Entrance	1:30pm

Please let us know the time and date of events in June/July for the next edition of Village Life by no later than **Friday 12th May 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 June and July (or later).

**We invite you all to our Village Life AGM on 12th May at 10am.**



# **ST MARTINS COMMUNITY**

## **FIRST RESPONDERS**

### **AIR AMBULANCES**

In the past year we have been fortunate enough to see the red helimed in action several times. The one covering Shropshire is based at Cosford and the one covering the Welsh border is based at Welshpool. Once mobilised, each will take just over 15 minutes to reach our area. They will both cross the border to where they are needed and we have welcomed both the Midlands and the Welsh (which has a big dragon on the side!) helicopters here in St Martins.

They have a characteristic sound and I am always very happy when I hear that distinctive clatter. The pilots, who are non-medics, can land on a sixpence leaving the health professionals to trot over fields and stiles carrying their kit to reach the patient. The crews don't say a lot but the way they work is astonishing, each knowing exactly what their task is yet combining as an efficient team. The equipment they have with them is second to none and they are able to manoeuvre



**Shropshire Air Ambulance**



**Wales Air Ambulance**

themselves and their patient around in the tiniest of spaces. Although the medics are NHS personnel the helicopters and the pilots are funded by charity alone and it costs thousands of pounds per outing, of course.

Even though the helicopter arrives at a job the patient won't necessarily be travelling in it - it has been sent because there is an emergency doctor on board who can carry out rapid interventions which even our very best paramedics cannot. Once stabilised the patient may be transported by land ambulance while the helicopter and its crew fly off to the next job. Now that beats being bumped in a cart to the quack in the next village as our forefathers were!

Effie

### ***EFFIE CFR UPDATE***

*Following a very amicable meeting with Nathan Hudson, General Manager for Birmingham, West Midlands Ambulance Service, we are delighted to report that Effie has been reinstated as the other village CFR with immediate effect.*

*Effie and her family would like to thank Stans Superstore, the Advertizer, Shropshire Star, BBC Radio Shropshire and everyone in St Martins and beyond for their fantastic support. It is a fact that we couldn't have done it without you all.*

*By the time you read this Effie should be out and about in her red suit and liveried car again. **THANK YOU!***

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> April**

10am-12pm on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

10am-12pm on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**



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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# St Martins School News

## Literacy week

What a week we have had...celebrating literacy and reading across the school! Please read the update from Ms Evans who has organised and coordinated the activities.

Accelerated reading programme continues to inspire and improve levels of literacy - in primary a handful of students have remained at their current level, everyone else has improved. We have one boy in year 5 who has come out at age 15!

## Communication with parents

I would like to invite parents to join me in a committee to look at how school can improve communication with parents. If you are interested in taking part please contact the school reception.

If parents need to discuss any issue please come to my Open Door session on a Tuesday , 2.20pm—3.20pm. If you can't attend in person a phone call can also be taken.

Ms Lovecy

## Literacy week up date

On Monday we had a visit from author and performance poet David Mason, who performed some of his hilarious and thought provoking poems to all year groups. Through the day a selection of students from years 6 – 9 took part in an 'Inspire to Write' workshop with David which combined elements of the Drama and English curriculum to provide students with the inspiration to produce some excellent pieces of work. An enjoyable day was had by all!

On Tuesday the St Martins Standard news team visited the Shropshire Star in Telford to watch the printing process and have an insight to the life of a journalist. Editor Martin Wright, a former St Martins School student, welcomed students into the offices to show them what the production of the newspaper entails and to answer any questions that our budding journalists may have!

On Wednesday, we decided we would all do some reading with a difference. Students from all years took part in an 'Extreme reading mannequin challenge' when they had to get themselves into a weird and wonderful position with a book and pose for a photo. Full coverage, with photographs, will be in our newspaper 'St Martins Standard'!

Thursday was the pinnacle of our celebrations, and we embraced World Book Day with a Harry Potter/magical themed day!

We saw lessons themed around magic and Harry Potter all through the school...and we can't forget to mention the strange and fantastic costumes worn by students and staff alike. Secondary and primary students spent time reading in groups, and discussing the stories together. It was a fantastic and fun day!

Ms Evans





## PRIMARY NOTICE BOARD

10<sup>th</sup> March is the deadline for Christmas Stamp design

### Head Lice

Could all parents check their child and treat if necessary. There has been an outbreak in year 4.

Please could parents label all items of uniform including P.E. kits - parents please check uniform as it can be easy for students to pick up someone else's uniform in error.



## SECONDARY GIRLS SPORTS

Are you interested in learning to play Rugby and Football?

The Club 1 Girls club on Thursdays, after school are doing Tag Rugby in the Sports Hall. Anyone interested please see Mrs Hamm Jones. Open to year 7-11 girls —£3.50 per session

Girls' Football is on again Tuesday lunch times in the Sports Hall.

## MESSAGE FROM PC LE CLERE

We've recently been informed of some potential safeguarding risks with the app *Roblox*. *Roblox* is a game available for Xbox One, Playstation 4, Windows 10, Apple Mac, iPhone, iPad, Android and Amazon Fire devices. It allows users to create user generated games and share them with their friends in a virtual massively multiplayer world.

As the game is designed to centre around user generated content, some inappropriate content may be shared with the community.

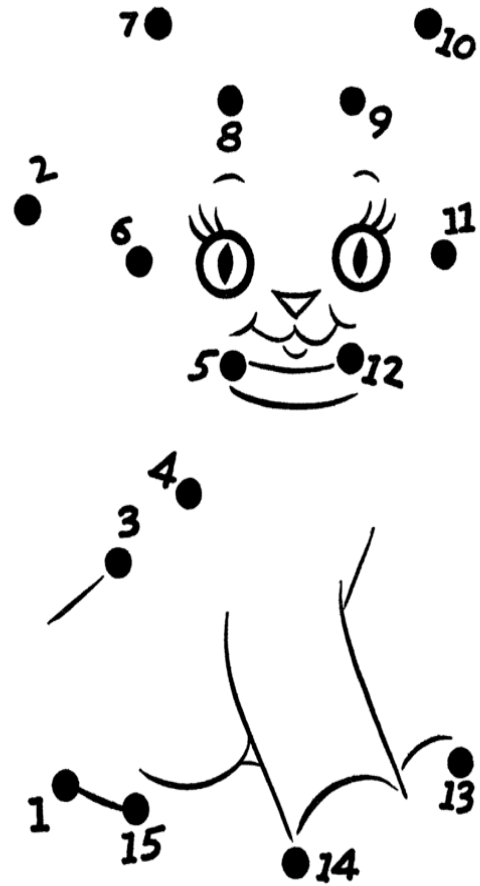
It also has social elements built into it that allow both public and private chats. This has created some reported instances of this app being used by some adults to make inappropriate contact with children.

As always we recommend you keep an open dialogue with your children about the websites and applications they use online and if needs be ask them to no longer use it, explaining to them the potential dangers.

# SUDOKU

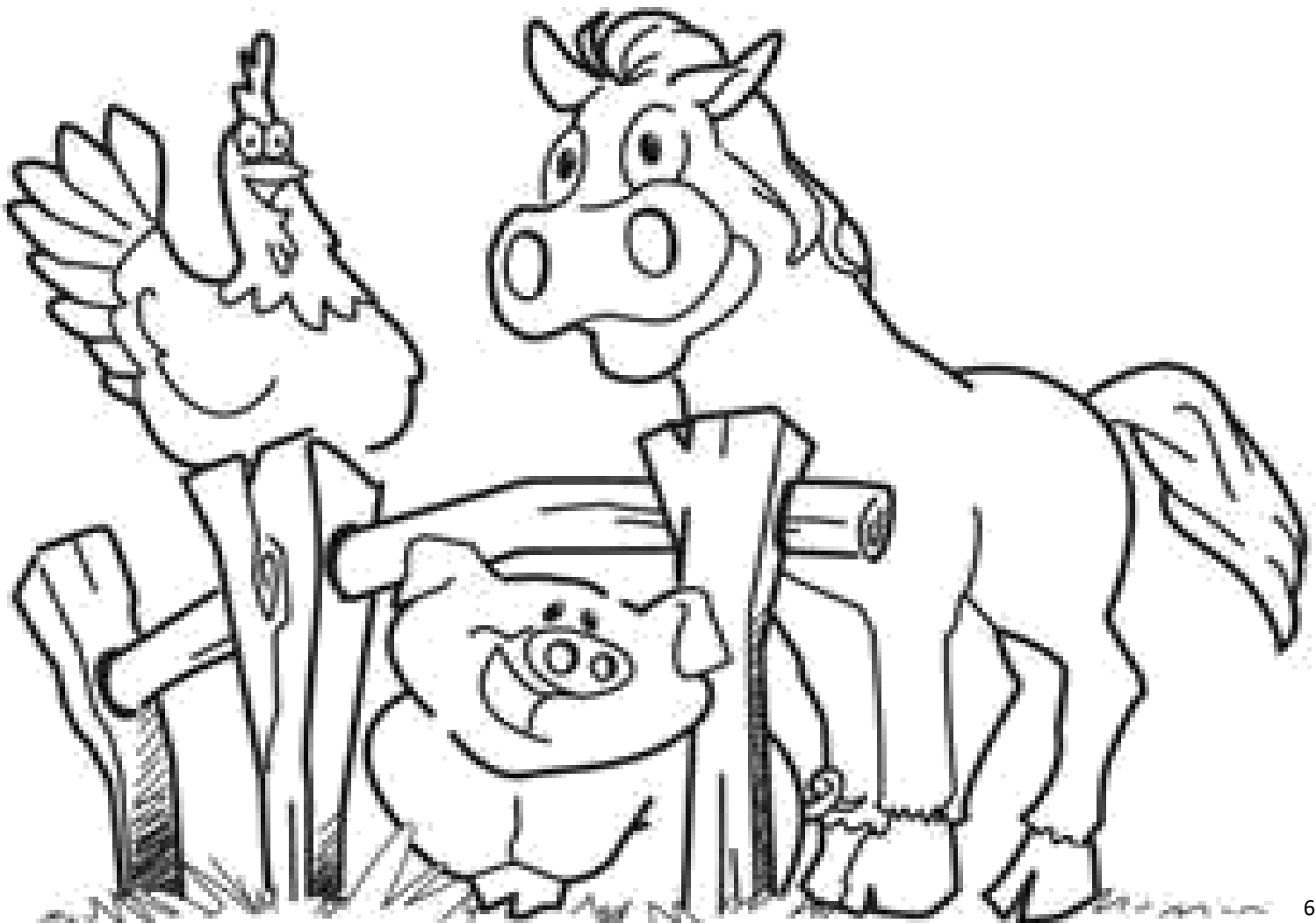
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Join the dots



RaisingOurKids.com

Here's a great picture for you to colour



# Fast Food



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TACO



# Brownies

## St Martins Brownies

have been working on an Australian Challenge Badge. They have taken part in quizzes, songs and games, tried Australian foods and held a beach party.

The Brownies are looking forward to spending the night at Cosford Air museum On the 18th March as part of a Pilot scheme.

Were you a Brownie or Guide and feel you have time to join us on a Monday or Tuesday night to help with the activities, joining in with the programme and building confidence and finding out what we get up to .

If this is you and you would like to know more please contact Heather On 01691778598 or 07854799058

The Brownies and leaders had a fabulous fun packed sleepover with a range of craft and activities to carry out.

We slept under the belly of a Hastings and had the free run of the Cold War Section of the Museum. We ended the night with a film before bed. (A Night in the Museum).

The following morning the girls explored the other half of the museum making good use of the hands on science experiments laid out. They sat in the cockpit moving the controls and leavers to see the wings and tail flaps move (ejector sits removed).

To end the morning we then watched an exciting film on flight in 4D having water sprayed at us and shaken on seats.

it was time to catch our coach home with 14 very tired Brownies and their leaders.



1. Bird
  2. Australian
  3. Communications
  4. Theo Walcott
  5. Portsmouth
  6. Watford
  7. Cairo
  8. Cats
  9. David Williams
  10. July
- FROM PAGE 11

**Answers**

## Condolences

Jane Wright of Cedar Close died on 27th February 2017

Colin Davies died on 24th Feb 2017 in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Neville "Roy" Williams died on 23rd Feb 2017 in hospital in Calgary, Canada

Our deep commiserations to all the families.



## The Three Parishes Community Wildlife Group

The March meeting in Weston Rhyn was well attended. The talk was by Leo Smith who is a well known ornithological consultant a supporter of Community Wildlife Groups. The subject of the evening was Lapwings and Curlews and the massive population decline in recent years. After the

informative talk by Leo members were invited to volunteer to support a new local survey. There was an excellent response from those present with many of the survey squares covered. There are still a few to allocate and anyone who was not present and is able to help with the survey please contact Polly Smith on 01691 239087 as soon as possible.

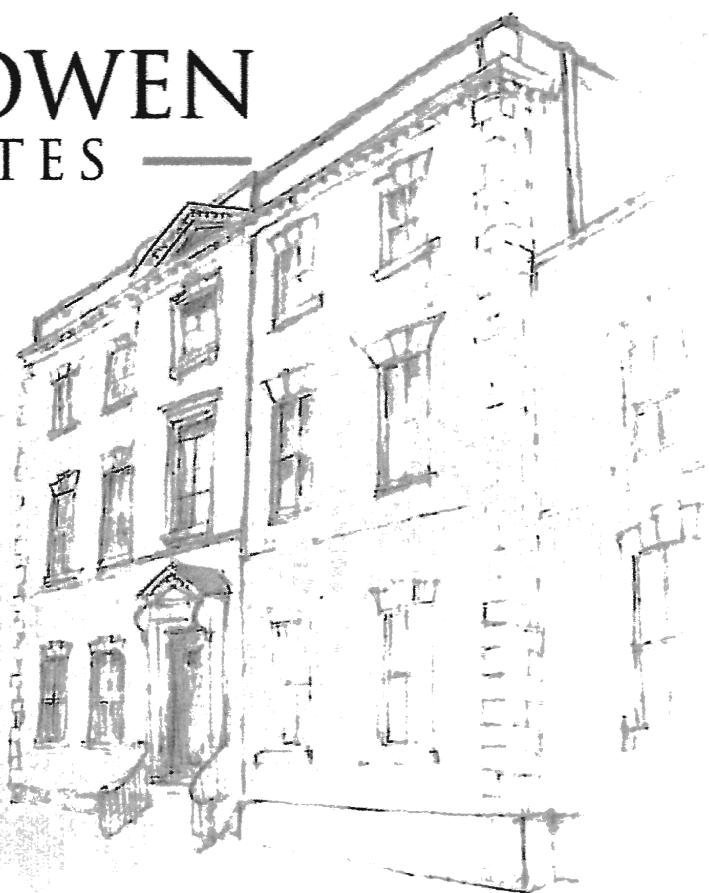
In April the group will be hearing a talk on "Identifying Wildflowers" The speaker will be John Handley, the meeting will be at 7.30 on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The venue for this month is The Chapter House at St Martins Parish Church and everyone is welcome. There is a charge of £2 each to include coffee or tea.

Further information can be obtained from Polly Smith 01691239087 or email: [polly.j.smith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:polly.j.smith@hotmail.co.uk)



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**Shropshire Rural Communities Charity**

## **Shropshire Wheels2Work – Helping Three Parishes Residents Stay in Work**

A Three Parishes resident has been able to stay in work, thanks to a transport loan through Shropshire Rural Communities Charity's Wheels2Work scheme.

Kyle, from Gobowen, had lift shared from Gobowen to work in Welshpool but when his driver-colleague left his job, Kyle was going to lose his means of getting to work. He contacted Wheels2Work who were able to loan him a 125cc Scooter.

Kyle says of the scheme, "it has personally helped me a lot. Without it I would have lost my job".

Wheels2Work can loan at a low, subsidised rate, 50cc Mopeds, 125cc Scooters, electric bikes and bicycles to eligible clients who have either an existing job or a firm job offer.

The Wheels2Work scheme is available across Shropshire but thanks to localised funding through the Three Parishes Big Local Project, the charity is able to focus on delivering its services to residents of to people who work in the Three Parishes area (Gobowen, Weston Rhyn and St Martins).

Please contact Wheels2Work at Shropshire Rural Communities Charity on 01743 237885 or email at [wheels2work@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:wheels2work@shropshire-rcc.org.uk) for more information.



Kyle from Gobowen, on his 125cc Moped loaned to him by Wheels2Work



# Ifton Meadows

## Management Committee

I am sitting in my kitchen watching the snow coming down outside my window. Should have been a Green Gym today but combination of weather and Winter bugs affecting our volunteers means that we had to call it off. We have 6 trees to plant (paid for by the Parish Council) to replace 3 trees that had to be removed within the Parish.



Storm 'Doris' fetched down several trees on the Meadows, particularly in the Price's Dingle by Pixie Falls and across the drive up to Pen y Banc. At the same time a 20 inch water main burst in the 'Railway Field' (not sure we can blame 'Doris' for that) causing flooding near the bungalow which needed the 'Fire Brigade' to pump clear. The water board have since repaired this but as you can imagine the area around was damaged either by water or by workmen repairing the pipe.

Spring flowers in the Dingle are giving everyone a beautiful display - February saw snowdrops, bluebells will soon follow and then we will have our normal spectacular display of wild garlic and elsewhere onsite you will find the gorse in full flower.



Finally I would like you to remember that when you walk in the country there are rules that should be followed.

1 - Close all gates after you.

2 - Leave all areas as you find them ie: take your rubbish home or put it into appropriate bins. Do not leave it for someone else to pick up. Litter of all kinds can be dangerous to wild life and farm animals as well as looking unsightly.

3 - It is illegal to pick or dig up wild flowers - please leave them to be enjoyed by others.

4 - Dogs must be kept under control at ALL times. Wrexham Borough Council brought in the following Dog Control Legislation on 1st March 2017. I quote:

: Any person in charge of a dog in a public place must ensure their dog is on a lead at All times.

: If a dog fouls anywhere in a public place the faeces must be removed and disposed of appropriately.

: A person committing an offence will have 14 days to pay a fixed penalty of £100 (or £75 if paid within 7 days), failing which they may be prosecuted.

If you do not want to see this legislation brought in on the Meadows and North Shropshire make sure that you clean up after your dog and if you see someone not cleaning up remind them that they are putting the future of all dogs to run free on the Meadows in jeopardy.

Diary dates: meetings: 11th April and 9th May - 7.30 p.m. @ Centre  
Green Gyms : 9th April and 14th May - 1.30 at Colliery entrance.



## **Sunday Social Club**

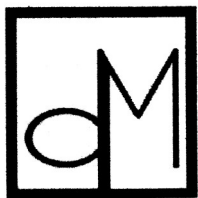


Our Social Club has now been running for ten months and our numbers are growing. Our ladies and some gentleman (and we could really do with a few more gentlemen attendees) have a great time with lots of conversation, cups of tea or coffee sandwiches and cake, quizzes, music and the like.

**The Club takes place at 3.30pm on the first Sunday of each month  
at St. Martins Centre Lounge and the next will be on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> April with the following on the  
7<sup>th</sup> May. Please do come along.**

If you wish further details please contact Mrs Valerie Thompson on 01691 658756.

If you have difficulty in travelling to the centre it may be possible to arrange transport for you.



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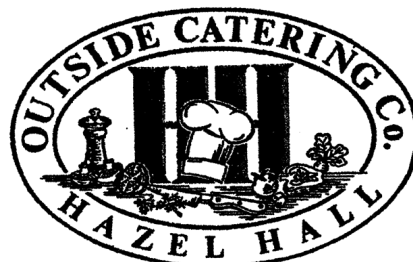
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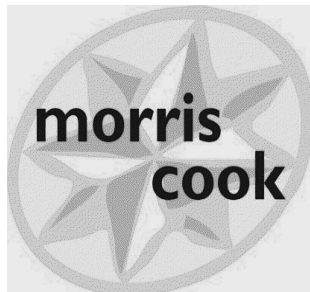
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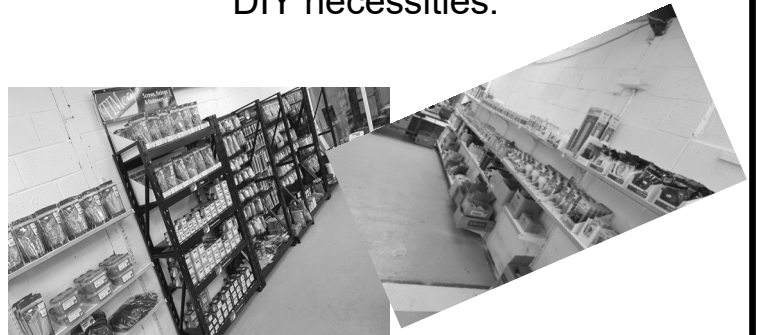
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At our meeting held on 7th February we sang Jerusalem and The National Anthem to commemorate the Queens 65 year Jubilee of her ascension to the throne, a unique achievement! Our speaker was Sue Dewhirst who spoke about Cardiac Risk in the Young. The charity is called CRY. The condition is also known as Young Sudden Cardiac Arrest or YSCD. She got involved because her 17 yr old son died of this condition as he took part in a fitness session at his college. She has since learnt a great deal about the condition and speaks and supports many events that raise funds for the charity. They raise awareness and provide subsidised testing for 14 - 35 yr olds. Testing cannot be done at younger ages since the heart has not stopped growing and can give false readings. A great many of us had not realised the statistics - every week in the U.K. 12 apparently fit and healthy young people under 35 die from undiagnosed cardiac conditions. She was one very brave and inspirational lady and we learnt such a lot from her talk that evening. I urge anyone with 14 to 35 yr olds in their family to consider having them tested through this charity.

We have had invitations to several outings including one from our Oswestry North Group for a coach trip to Well Dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire on 26th May 2017. We also discussed our own outing on 1st August to Gregynog Hall Gardens.



Our meeting on March 7th took place at Upstairs Downstairs Cookery shop in Oswestry. We attended an Italian Cookery Workshop run by the owner Yossi Gliksman. We were made very welcome and soon settled down to a really lovely treat. Yossi started with a Focaccia Bread with red onion and rosemary sprinkled on the top. He kept up a very lively conversation showing the different methods of kneading the dough and why he used that particular method. We also learned the correct way to maintain and sharpen, and also to hold our kitchen knives and which chopping boards were the best. Also the different metals used for cookware and how they differed in heat conduction. After that he went on to make a Risotto with parmesan cheese. The whole time giving us tips on ingredients and utensils. He then prepared a salad with fresh mozzarella slices, tomato and basil. This was complemented with a balsamic vinegar reduction dressing drizzled over the top. You can imagine the wonderful smells emanating from all of this - our taste buds were getting going. Then the big moment came when we got to sample everything, delicious! Yossi was thanked by our President Shirley Willis.

Next months meeting will be held on 4th April at The Miners Institute at 7.30 p.m. and we will be having our Spring Show. We will also be having as our speaker Gillian Sturgess - cake decorating. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

You can follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/StMartinsWI/](http://www.facebook.com/StMartinsWI/)

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

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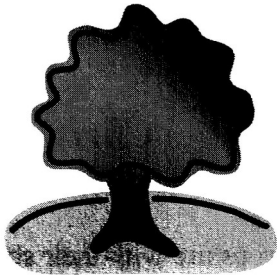
## **CHIRK HOSPITAL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.**

**Chirk** Hospital Circle of Friends wishes everyone a very Happy New Year and grateful thanks for all the support given over the past 12 months. We would particularly like to thank Carole James and her team of nifty knitters for the beautiful hand-made items which they sell at the hospital raising an amazing amount of money for the hospital. Carole presented the Circle of Friends with a cheque for £600 before Christmas and we are so grateful for her wonderful support. The Christmas Raffle raised £1,000 and the Christmas Tree of Light an amazing £850+. Bless you all for your overwhelming generosity which has helped us to furnish the new dementia room at Chirk Hospital plus provide new seating and equipment in the Day Hospital.

We are continuing to hold our popular Rummage Sales at Chirk Parish Hall on the first Saturday of each month (with the exception of July), the next two of which will be on Saturday March 4th, 10am - 12 noon, and Saturday April 1st, 10am - 12 noon. Come and grab a bargain or two! If you have any rummage or bric a brac that you no longer want then please deliver it to Chirk Parish Hall on the Friday before the Sale between 2pm and 4pm or call 01691 772321. 01691 772265 or 01691 777545 for collection of items..

We welcome you all to our AGM which is taking place on Thursday March 16th , 2.30pm at Chirk Hospital.

## A ROBERTS



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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
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Spring is in the air and 2<sup>nd</sup> St Martins Scouts have had a busy start to the year.

Highlights have been ten-pin bowling at the Venue for over 30 beavers and cubs, climbing at Plas Yn Power in Wrexham and Laser Quest at the Venue, organised by the scouts.

Over the coming weeks the group is planning their camping and outdoor adventures for spring and summer.

## Flipping fun!



Learning life skills and developing independence is a big part of the scouting movement, so our leaders never waste an opportunity to get cooking.

On Shrove Tuesday, our recently refurbished kitchen provided a whole lot of 'flipping' fun and tasty treats for beavers and cubs.

## Rhys' recruitment campaign

Now that some older members of 2<sup>nd</sup> St Martins Scouts have moved on, Scout Rhys Evans (pictured), who attends St Martins School, decided to work for his challenge badge with fellow Scout Jamie Jones to create a poster to promote the group.

They've put posters up in Stan's and at school and you can see their handy work in this magazine. We think the challenge was met and the badge well-deserved.



If anyone would like some extra posters to display around the village, please let us know.

## Fired up!

Fire safety was brought to life for 2<sup>nd</sup> St Martins Cubs with a visit to Oswestry fire station. Hosted by Robyn Evans and Matt Whytton, they were bowled over by the amount of questions our youngsters asked.



From the causes of fires and how many call-outs a year to pet rescues and requests to try the fire hose (the answer was no), the children kept the fire officers busy with hundreds of questions.

Didn't take long to spot the emergency break-time supplies.

Well done to Cub Leader Nicki Pickles for demonstrating the fire safety clothing.

Huge thanks to our wonderful fire service and to Matt and Robyn for taking the time to share their work and teach the children about fire safety in north Shropshire.

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 in winter, extending to 9pm in the summer. Contact Barry Evans on **07921 838120** if you would like to know more.

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



# **Three Parishes Big Local** **March 2017**



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

## **Three Parishes Big Local Update**

Our Community Chest Grants scheme awards grants of up to £500 for community groups and projects within the Three Parishes Big Local area.

These grants have been used to fund a wide range of activities including learning new skills, buying equipment, recruiting new members and holding events.

Anything we fund has to work towards at least one of our community aspirations which focus on:

- Gaining skills & qualifications
- Improving their health & well-being
- Our rural environment and economy
- Becoming more enterprising
- Making the most of our community buildings
- Enabling ALL residents to benefit from being part of our community.

As well as funding, we can also help your group to start, develop and grow. Whether that is by advice on how to set up a community group, help with promoting your activity or just simply an idea that you have.

If you would like an application form or discuss an idea, please contact Bridget on 01691 656882 or email at: [b.laraway@qube-oqa.org](mailto:b.laraway@qube-oqa.org)

## **FREE TRAINING COURSE**

Would you like to learn more about how to develop and write grant or funding applications for your organisation or community group?

There are still a few spaces on the Free Training Course – Writing **Exceptional Grant Applications** which is taking place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 9:00 – 4.15pm at St Martins Community Centre

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.



**Want to keep up with 3 Parishes Big Local news? Contact Bridget or Paula at Three Parishes Big Local on 01691 656882 or at [info@big-local.org](mailto:info@big-local.org)**

Find us on Facebook and Twitter on 3PBigLocal

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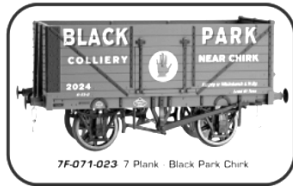
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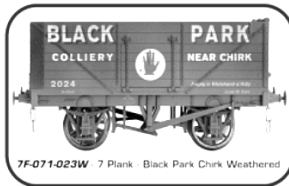
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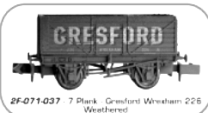


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