Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

There are three particular items I would like to draw to your attention this month:-

- Thanks to the great response from local businesses, Village Life has now reached the point at which we can sustain the cost of producing our magazine from the income received from paid advertisements but (and it is good news) we are still getting requests from more people wanting to advertise! So, when you read this issue, please give us some feedback on whether you think the balance between information, articles and adverts is now about right. We think it is, and if you agree with us, we will start creating a waiting list for new advertisers who may have to wait for someone else to drop out before we are able to start publishing their advertisement.
- You will read in this issue about the work now being done by our local speed awareness team. To keep this team viable, more volunteers are needed. They need at least 6 more people, preferably more, so that a further training course can be organised, and the newly trained volunteers added to the team. If you would like to join this local initiative please contact Sue Schofield for details.
- Finally, in the January magazine I promised you an update on the progress of the proposed new recreation ground and, by a happy coincidence of timing, the long awaited planning application has just been submitted to Shropshire Council. There is still a lot more work to be done before we see any of the new facilities in place, but please look at page 35 for details of where the project is at the moment. If you want more information on this topic, feel free to drop in and talk to me at St Martins Centre on any Monday or Wednesday morning and I will be happy to give you more details.

John Steven	IS Control of the con
Chair of the	Editorial Committee
If you w	ish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication
	please email it to stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com
	by no later than Wednesday 15th May 2019
•	

Disclaimer: Whilst we make every attempt to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained in these pages, errors may occur. Village Life Magazine will not be held responsible for loss, however arising, from the use of or reliance on this information. The full text of this disclaimer can be found on 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

<u>stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com</u>

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

Parish Council

From the Chair

Greetings from the Chair of St Martins Parish Council. This is my last report since our Standing Orders state that the Chairman must step down after two years. It has been an honour to serve the community of St Martins during the past two years. Looking back over the last year, I consider that I was privileged to attend as Chairman at the 100th anniversary Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial and to attend as Chairman both the Service and the actual unveiling of the Miner's Statue; both were very memorable occasions. Meanwhile, other things roll on. I would like to say that we still hope to commence this year the development of the new Recreation Site wrapped around St Martins School, but planning has not motored as fast as I had anticipated. Hopefully the wheels of planning will turn faster, and maybe the JCBs will start levelling the land for cricket and football pitches in the near future? To pay for this new development your Parish Council has some reserves, but essentially we will be seeking major funding in cooperation with other interested parties. And talking of money, your Parish Council is pleased to inform you that we are again holding down the Precept (your local tax) - at 0%! Yes, zero percent, which I think is the fifth year in a row wherein we have not raised the Precept whilst other authorities have jumped on the raising-tax bandwagon. We owe thanks for this prudence to the financial acumen of our Chair of Finance and our Parish Clerk.

Thinking of carefulness, it has also been a privilege to serve our community on the Speedwatch team. We stand there with radar gun not to intimidate, but to make drivers be aware that they must keep their speed down to the legal limit for their own safety as well as that of pedestrians such as schoolchildren and mums and toddlers walking down to the school. My personal observation is that 99% of drivers do slow down for which we are thankful. We get hand waves of acknowledgement. You can guess what the remaining 1% does, but we learn lessons. The motorbike 'cowboy' who approached us as 29mph and then shot off at 47mph as soon as he passed us, too fast to catch sight of his licence plate, has taught us to make a mental note of all motorbike licences before they approach us.

Indeed, over the next ten years St Martins will see a lot of housing development – as allocated by Shropshire Council – so there will be many more HGVs and more cars on Overton Road, which, according to Steve Davenport, our Local Councillor and Highways

portfolio holder, will be surface dressed this year! And that can't be bad.

So I say farewell to you with the words of Andy Williams who sang, "May each day of the week be a good day, may the Lord always watch over you, and may all of your hopes turn to wishes, and may all of your wishes come true."

Glenn Pennington

Chair St Martins Parish Council



Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

The March Parish Council Meeting was held in St Martins Centre.

A working group has been set up to discuss the way forward on installing Vehicle Activated Speed Signs in St Martins. The locations are dependent on approval from Shropshire Council. The areas that the parish council would like to have these located are on Overton Road (near to the former Ifton School), Ellesmere Road (in the Firs Close area), Moors Bank (in the 40mph limit), Overton Road (both towards Escob and just by the school at Rhos-y-Llan farm). The Community Speed Watch volunteers have now been out on a number of occasions monitoring the speed of traffic through St Martins.

As regards the concerns over the layout of the mini roundabout by Stans Superstore following various vehicle incidents, the Parish Council has submitted an interim expression of interest form for CIL local funding from Shropshire Council. Hopefully new junction infrastructure will address increased and increasing traffic volumes working in partnership with Shropshire Council Highways to achieve both improved and safer traffic management and a reduction in traffic incidents. Following a number of site visits, Shropshire Council Highway Officers are aware of the current problems which will be made more sever by further development.

Incidents reported at the meeting included:

- The condition of the road surface from St Martins School to Gledrid roundabout
- Blocked drains in Moors Lane.
- The need for upgrading of signs and road markings at Escob Bridge.

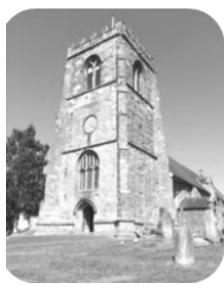
 Reports to the police of HGV's parking overnight and at weekends in layby adjacent to play area.

- Hole left in grass verge following recent Severn Trent work.
- Litter pick required along path opposite Bank Top Estate.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on the 11th April 2019 followed by the Annual Parish Meeting on the 18th April. Both meetings start at 7pm and will be held in St Martins Centre.

Edward Davies
St Martins Parish Clerk.

Current Parish Councillors					
Andrew Cast	01691 773389				
Gordon Fryer	01691 774520				
Mark Hayball	01691 770207				
Brian Herbert	01691 772647				
John Hodgson	07841 451212				
James Hoos	01691 661218				
Fatema Kapasi					
Duncan Laing	07702 991 845				
Nina Mistry	01691 657324				
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477				
Lesley-Anne Roberts 01691 776438					
John Sands	01691 772394				
John Stevens	01691 770677				
Sue Schofield	01691 777710				
Helen Williams	01691 777561				



St. Martins Parish Church

Service times

Sundays: 9:30am our usual Morning Worship Service with Communion (except on 4th Sunday when it is a Service of the Word)

Mothering Sunday Service 31st March 9:30am

A short Service to remember and celebrate our Mothers Come and light a candle. Craft and refreshments afterwards.

We are starting a new initiative which we believe will shine a light into the village; just like the miner's lamp in the coal mines. We are going to prayer walk every road in the village asking God to bless all the households and businesses; to bring His love and peace into our village and into the hearts of all who live here.



If you would like to join us - let

me know. You can pray with us at our meetings (and on prayer walks) or at home. We will publish the streets we are praying for each week on our website and on our noticeboards.

Weekly Events

Tuesday Coffee morning at 10:30am in the Chapter house. **Wednesdays** 9:30am Mid-week Communion service.

New Youth Group Starting - 11-18 years - more info please ask.

For more about our activities and services please check out our website www.stmartinsparish.co.uk

Phone anytime 778 468 or text 07766 255436 or email: saintmartinjohns@icloud.com

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

Thankfully spring has arrived, the hedges are starting to come alive and the daffodils are making things feel bright and sunny,

I need to update you on what's happening on the old Ifton school site as there seems to have been a misunderstanding in the Advertizer. Shropshire Council, in conjunction with the Parish Council and myself, are hoping to build some bungalows for the older generation and even some disabled units - a mixed development of 32 units, but keeping the former school building for office accommodation and small business incubation units.

I'm sure some of you will have noticed the local Speedwatch team is now in operation, so be careful, there are a team of Parish councillors checking speeds in the village backed by the police .

I've also arranged for some much needed resurfacing in the village, mainly Overton Road and Ellesmere Road, which will take place during April. It may be inconvenient but it's much needed. We are also continuing with highways designs for Stan's mini roundabout, frustratingly slow as with everything connected to Shropshire Council, but we will get there in the end.

I continue to do my best in the village working alongside the Parish Council to achieve the best results. We are not always right or win all our battles but what I can say is that there is always plenty of hard work behind the scenes,

As I always say, my contact details are on this page. If you have any concerns I might be able to help you with, please get in touch, or contact me through the Centre.

Steve

March 19 Quiz (Answers on page 37)

- 1. Which England cricketer scored 122 in the final Test Match against The West Indies?
- 2. How many spots does a traditional dice have in total on its six faces?
- 3. In 2009, on which river did pilot Chesley Sullenberger splash-land U.S. Airways Flight 1549?
- 4. In rugby union, which country does Stuart Hogg play for?
- 5. Terry Downes was a World Champion in which sport?
- 6. In the phonetic alphabet which word represents the letter L?
- 7. What is the surname of the English singer- songwriter Boy George?
- 8. How many masts does the historic tea clipper Cutty Sark have?
- 9. What is the fifth month of the year to have 31 days in it?
- 10. Marines Yomp but what does yomp stand for?





I'm so sorry to report that we have recorded 9 vehicles speeding through the village on our Speedwatch sessions. It is not what had been hoped. Although the majority of drivers do drive sensibly, we had hoped not to find anyone exceeding the limit.

Many drivers slow right down when they see us, however, it could be potentially a problem if you slow down too much thus causing frustration in the drivers behind, so please do beware. The upper limit is 30mph not 15/20, (my comment here is not intended to advocate that all should be traveling at 30mph all the time but suggests that 15mph with no reason is a bit slow). Please drive according to road conditions.

A lot of you have waved, tooted and given us the thumbs up when passing. Thank you for your support. We feel really encouraged despite the wind and cold, but roll on the warmer days.

I have been given the names of 2 people who would like to join us. Is there anyone else who thinks they could give us an hour or two a month? If so, please email Sue Schofield (at suescho@hotmail.co.uk). Could those who have previously expressed an interest please email as well so that there is a paper trail. Everyone who joins us will need to go through the training and each course needs 5 or 6 attendees for it to take place.

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Tel. 07872 619853



St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister: Rev Stella Long 01691

622274

Thursday Coffee Mornings 10.30 - 11.30

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

	April 7th	April 14th	April 21st	April 28th
ST MARTINS	12b 10.00	M Bennett 10.00	Moors HC 11.00	Watts 11.00
MOORS	Molyneux 11.00	Roberts 11.00	Rev Shoreman HC 11.00	St Martins 11.00
	May 5th	May 12 th	May 19th	May 26th
ST MARTINS	AWT 10.00	No service	Rev S Long HC 11.00	Moors Rev S Long 11.00
MOORS	M & A Davies 11.00	Watts 11.00	St Martins 11.00	Rev S Long 11.00

Join us for Coffee, biscuits and a chat THURSDAYS 10.30 - 11.30



Tea and Coffee Shop



The former provisions store and bakery 'Ushers" at St Martins Moor Bridge has now re-opened as a 'Tea and Coffee Shop'.

Jan and Mike Crowe will now provide a wide range of teas, coffees, hot chocolate and soft drinks and of course some wonderful cakes on a 'pop up' basis for walkers, boaters and locals.

We also offer free-range eggs, homemade jam, and a variety of homemade breads (made to order Tel: 01691 587224). There is also a bric-a-brac and gift stall. Opening hours will be flexible (look for the 'A' board outside). We have inside seating available. Ushers will also offer bed & breakfast to visitors to the area and details can be found on the Airbnb website.

All profits from this venture will be allocated to local charities

Leslie Younger

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Spring has definitely arrived early this year. Several pairs of skylarks were already in residence at the Meadows when we walked around a couple of weeks ago. We were checking where to put out camera posts and they entertained us with their aerial flights and their songs which added the final touch to a lovely walk on a sunny, if cold, day.



The trees are bursting with new buds and the hazel is full of catkins, plus the dingle has started dressing itself with spring flowers. The Snowdrops may be on the way out but the bluebells are taking their place.

The friends have been cutting out a section of the laid wildlife corridor by Pen y Banc and replanting it with hazel and wild maple. This section had become overgrown with willow, which is not an ideal habitat for many species, it is a fast grower and needs cutting back each year.

Some of you may have seen a group of teenagers working on the Meadows over the last few months. They are from Oswestry School and with their teacher and with Ranger Mike Simms have been helping to clearing scrub etc..

The new identification boards have been welcomed. I have been asked about the map - this is in the new leaflet which is available from Pentre Nurseries.

Future dates:

Monthly meetings - 9th April and 14th May - 7.30 p.m. at St. Martins Centre.

Workdays - 14th April and 12th May - 1.30 p.m. at Colliery entrance

Ann Williams - Village Life - March 2019.



Well our Mr MOTS is drawing people from all over the country. Andrew from Stan's tells me that he gets into conversation with many people from far and wide who just come to see this brilliant sculpture, which is well worth seeing and taking in

the detail. I've seen for myself that people are standing before him to take photographs, individuals as well as groups. I suspect that as the better weather comes along, there will be many more. If you see anyone there, do try to engage them in conversation and find out where they have come from and let us know.

On Commemoration Day, we put a visitors book out for people to sign and pass comment, I'd like to share some of the comments here:

Moors Bank St Martins - It's been a very emotional day. Wonderfully organised of everything epically the statue, it's a fitting memorial to the miners.

By Pass Road Gobowen - A fantastic day for all, a fine calibration, recognising this important occasion.

Park Avenue Oswestry - A wonderful day bringing the community together. A fantastic sculpture - couldn't be prouder of Mr Triggs.

Castleford, Yorkshire - The Mining Community Done Proud Today

Ad yanei Turkey - A truly wonderful day. So pleased to have belonged to this community.

So many comments showing the depth of feelings of the day and the reasons for the commemoration, people felt. I spoke with the gentleman from Turkey. He worked down Ifton Pit for many years and remembered those days with fondness. He said when he heard about the day, he just had to be here and organised his trip to coincide. He was not the only one who now lives abroad that organised their time to be able to join us on the day.

The whole committee worked very hard to bring this to fruition, each bringing their skills and an enormous amount of time (some said it couldn't be done). I think I can say on behalf of the whole committee that we are proud of what we've accomplished but are very well aware that we could not have done it without all those who came to every event, those who gave a donation, those who bought medals and booklets etc., so here's a **BIG THANK YOU** to them for their support.

St. Martins will always be known as the village that honoured their History and Heritage and remembered those who died to bring in the fuel for businesses and the home fires.



ST MARTINS CENTRE



Overton Road, St Martins, Oswestry. SY11 3AY

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The Centre is raising money by recycling tooth brushes, toothpaste tubes, electric brush heads and all wrappings from these products.

We can accept any make, not just COLGATE. Just pop them in the box at the Centre.

Annual Parish Meeting

on the 18th April 2019

in St Martins Centre, 7pm start.

Should you have any concerns about village issues or want to suggest an improvement, this is your opportunity to voice them.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

It's your village and you're entitled to voice your opinion.

Our Unitary Councillor will also be there and might be in a position to answer that burning question - but do remember that we cannot change what's already been done and have very little influence over what Shropshire Council does.















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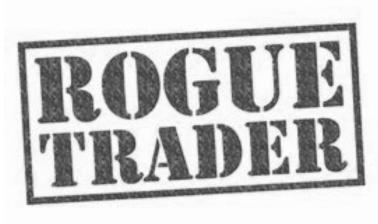


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That time of year is approaching when we all want to get our gardens looking presentable for the spring. Unfortunately, this sort of work often attracts undesirable and untrustworthy work men and women preying on the vulnerable people in our communities.

The Police and Trading Standards officers are already receiving reports of garden work, tree pruning, building work / roofing

repairs etc being carried out by 'a man in a van' where residents have been massively overcharged for the work done, or that the work carried out was of a poor standard.

Advice from the Police....

If you require any gardening work, building work or roofing repairs etc. to be carried out, only use a professional trades person that has been recommended to you by a friend or family member, or someone you have used previously and were happy with their service.

Avoid using someone who is going door to door touting for work - as honest, trustworthy and good quality professional trades people don't usually need to obtain work this way.

Before any work is commenced on your property the professional trades person is 'legally obliged' to provide you with a 'written contract' outlining their full company details, contact details and total price agreed - it must also include a 14 day cooling off period.

If the professional can't (or refuses to) provide a written contract before work commences, then you should politely decline their services. Often, when a written contract has not been provided the trades person will give a cheap 'verbal' quote for the work to encourage you to agree to employing them - but once work has commenced and there's seemingly no turning back, the original quote very often doubles or triples in price.

If a trades person is being pushy trying to get you to agree to employ them, or you feel intimidated by their presence, then politely decline their services.

For more crime prevention advice please feel free to get in contact with your local police team and please report anything suspicious to the police on 101.

Kate Le'Clere, PC 3718
Oswestry Rural North,
Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Mobile – 07870 219518

PCSO Dave Hughes – 07870 219190 PCSO Pete Roberts – 07870 219019

Please contact us on the above numbers if you have any issues you wish to discuss.

E-Mail - oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

To report a crime please dial 101 or in an emergency dial 999



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Moreton Hall's Success Continues to Crescendo at Oswestry Music Festival

Moreton Hall

Sixteen girls from Moreton Hall took to the stage at the Oswestry Music Youth Festival, achieving success in a diverse range of categories from musical theatre through to piano, woodwind, and strings.

Tara Davies, who joined Moreton Hall for the Music provision, was crowned overall winner of the 15 and Under age category and awarded the Oswestry Town Council Junior Cup. Reflecting on her achievement, Tara enthused: "The standard in the competition was extremely high and I was overwhelmed to win. I played *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* on the flute and the judges were complimentary and constructive in their comments, describing my performance as extremely musical."

Collectively, the students won 7 classes, gained 6 second places and 7 third places. This resulted in a record number of Moreton Hall students going on to compete at the Festival's Winners' concert on the Sunday afternoon.

All three age categories were represented by a Moreton Hall girl: Beatrice Kani for the 'Young Performer of the Year'; both Selina Shi and Tara Davies competed for the 15 and Under Junior Cup and Megan Keaveny the 21 and Under Senior Cup.

Competing against entrants significantly older than her, school girl Megan commented:

"I competed in 6 classes over the course of the festival, but my main win was the 21 & Under Woodwind Class. As expected, the standard was very high and the competition stiff, so I couldn't quite believe that I'd really won in such a talented class!

"The adjudicators are very welcoming and give good constructive criticism as well as pointing out what they love about your performance. The festival is such a good opportunity to immerse yourself in not only your own music, but in that of all the other competitors."

Director of Music at Moreton Hall, Helen Rayner, echoed the judges' sentiments as she noted the girls' assured and moving performances:

"We are immensely proud of all the girls who took part in this year's Festival. Watching them perform in such a nurturing and welcoming environment was rather moving. Their performances displayed poise, commitment and as one adjudicator commented, 'instinctive musicality.'



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Here's What My Clients Say . . .

"I was a little anxious about joining a class, but I needn't have worried. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly and I'm amazed that after just one session I feel energised and more flexible" Angela

"My pilates taster session was an absolute life changer for me. I immediately felt at ease and the instructions were clear and easy to follow. I didn't feel out of place. Following my free trial class I couldn't wait to join in again the following week." Sandra

"My advice to anyone thinking about doing Wendy's Pilates Move More Freely classes is to stop thinking about it and just do it!" Mike



Pilates Move More Freely Classes are perfect for you if you want to improve back health, get more flexible, get stronger and keep daily stiffness, niggles and aches at bay.

I have a limited number of Free Taster classes. In St Martins and Weston Rhyn. Contact Wendy to claim your FREE taster class and for more information.

Contact Wendy to reserve your place

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St Martins FC Report

Following disappointing form post Christmas, St. Martins FC returned to winning ways with a devastating 9-1 defeat of Stone Dominoes. The Saints leading goal scorer, Karl Bailey, scored an incredible five goals as the bewildered Stone defenders failed to handle his energetic runs and accurate finishing.





A typical run by Karl Bailey

Bailey's tally of goals proved the fitting conclusion to many creative moves supplied by the Saints attack led by Tom Ash who scored two and Callum Greybrook who scored one and supported by the tireless work of Jamie Hands at the centre of midfield. The final tally of 9 goals was completed by an unfortunate own goal that epitomised a sad afternoon for the Dominoes who's only solace was a goal scored by Luke Smith.

St Martins next game saw them take on top of the table Rylands FC who they had beaten 2-0 at home early in the season.



Chris Francis scored his first goal for Rylands FC netting a seventy-eighth minute winner to capture a tight 1-0 win at Gorsey Lane on Saturday 16th February to move Ryalnds into a seven points lead at the top of the North West Counties League First Division South. Karl Bailey timed his run perfectly to head Tawanda Melusi's cross toward the goal but Ryland full-back Tom Parry managed to steer the ball to safety. A fantastic reflex save from keeper George Austin epitomised the Saint's resilient defending, whilst they always looked dangerous on the break but were unable to grab an equaliser. At the conclusion of the game, Rylands Manager, Stuart Wellstead stated in his post match interview that "St Martin's are a good side who had beaten us earlier in the season, and gave us a really tough game today".

The disappointment experienced from the Rylands defeat was softened by a well earned 1-0



victory away in the North Shropshire derby with Ellesmere Rangers on Saturday 23rd February. Three points were won from a typically stoic derby encounter via a well taken goal from Callum Graybrook who calmly stroked the ball into the corner of the goal following an amazing run from Tawanda Melusi.

On Tuesday 26th February the Saints reached the semi-final of the TJ Vickers Shropshire Cup by defeating Shawbury Town 2-1 but at a cost, as Centre Back Stuart Dicken and George Durrell were sent off. Bizarrely, three of the Shawbury team were sent off also! A fact which suggests that this was a violent game but this was not the case as those who were sent off were sent off for unusual offences, for example; Shawbury's goalkeeper was sent off for handling the ball outside the penalty box. The Saints now play A.F.C Bridgnorth in the semi-final, but the date and venue are still to be decided. Haughmond Firsts play Wellington Amateurs in the other TJ Vickers Shropshire Cup semi-final.

The Saints most recent game was at home on Saturday 9th March against Wythenshawe Amateurs who are currently sitting in second place in the North West Counties League. The Saints have played well against all the top teams this season but this was not to be one of those days. The defence snapped and literally gave away the first two goals scored by Jordon Burton in the 14th minute and Ben Woods in the 49th minute, then succumbed to two late goals scored by Ben Woods in the 80th minute and Harry Shipton in the 89th minute losing 4-0, the club's heaviest defeat of the season. St. Martins FC has picked-up some significant injuries and suspensions lately and has suffered as a result of these losses in recent games.

It is hoped therefore that as these players return so too will the club's form as they sit mid table in the North West Counties League and optimistically await the semi-final of the TJ Vickers Shropshire County Cup.

What's on in April 2019!

Tues 2nd	WI	St Martins Institute Lounge	7:30pm
Wed 3rd	Hearing Aid Clinic	Oswestry Library	10am - 12 Noon
Tues 9th	IMMC/Friends of Ifton Meadows	St Martins Centre	7:30pm
Wed 10th	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club Hard landscaping & materials	Weston Rhyn Institute	7:30pm
Thurs 11th	St Martins Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm
Sat 13th	Clwyd Special Riding Centre Dog and Fun Day Show Brynkinalt Hall, Chirk		11am - 3pm
Sun 14th	Ifton Meadows Work day	Colliery Entrance	1:30pm
Wed 17th	Easter Holiday Crafts	Oswestry Library	10.45 - 11.45am
Wed 24th	Knit for Life Oswestry Library		1.30 - 3pm
Thurs 25th	Carer's Trust A free social group for registered and unregistered carers Oswestry Library		10:30am - 11:30am
Sat 27th	Big Local THE BIG CHAT	St Martins Centre	10:30am - 12:30pm