

January 2022

St Martins

# Village Life



This Magazine is Sponsored by Ridgway Rental Ltd

## Clubs and Groups

### **Bell Ringing**

Parish Church Tower      Tues. 7.00 - 8:30pm      Sun Service. 9:00 - 9.30am  
Contact: Tower Captain:      Dai Cartwright 01691 778215

### **St Martins Craft Guild**

Cedar Close      Wednesdays      2:00 – 4:00pm  
Contact: Alice Wilding      Tel: 01691 655699

### **St Martins Women's Institute**

Lounge of St Martins Miners' Welfare Institute. First Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm  
President      Eileen Rosamond 774630      Secretary Pam Doyle 777034

### **Age UK**

Cedar Close every Tuesday 10:00am - 2:30pm  
Contact: Val Brown 01691 662837

### **Ifton Meadows Management Committee:**

St Martins Centre 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in month 7:30pm  
Chair - Ann Williams 01978 710327

### **St Martins Youth Club**

St Martins Centre      Fridays in term time      7:30pm - 9:00pm  
Contact Sue or Nick Heard      01691 774097

### **Youth Groups**

1st St Martins Brownies      Tuesdays      6:00 — 7:00pm      Ellesmere Road Chapel  
1st St Martins Rainbows      Mondays      6:00 — 7:00pm      Ellesmere Road Chapel  
1st St Martins Guides      Tuesdays      7:00 — 8:30 pm      Ellesmere Road Chapel  
Contact: Mrs Heather Lloyd 01691 778598      Mobile: 07854 799 058 or  
Judith Phillips 01691 690435

### **2nd St Martins Scout Group**

Beavers (6-8)      Mondays	Not currently running	Meet in the Scout Hut
Cubs(8-10.5)      Thursday	6:00 -7.15	Meet in the Scout Hut
Scouts (10.5-14)Thursday	7:30 – 9:00	Meet in the Scout Hut

Contact:      Beavers & Cubs– Chris Burnell on [openfields@btinternet.com](mailto:openfields@btinternet.com)  
                    Scouts - Dave Cripps (scouts) [2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com](mailto:2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com)

### **St Martins Centre:**

Drop-in Computer Skills	Tues	10:00am - 2:00pm
Anti-Ageing Aerobics	Thurs	10:45am - 12noon



# Parish Council

## FROM THE CHAIR

Where has December gone? A dark and dreary December, then suddenly it's Christmas, and New Year? Some Christmas lights brightened our houses and a lovely little Father Christmas and his faithful followers(!) giving out chocolate to any children they saw. Thank you to Keith, and everyone who made efforts to be cheerful. Thank you to Ashley for putting up a lovely Christmas Tree in the garden, it gets brighter each year. It was lovely to see so many people out in the wet, just to see the lights switched on and finally thank you to Stans, who donated the tree.



We have made more complaints to Shropshire County Council about the amount of street lights that are out, some of which have been out for more than two years. We are constantly reminding them of this and hope that at some time soon we will have them all working again.

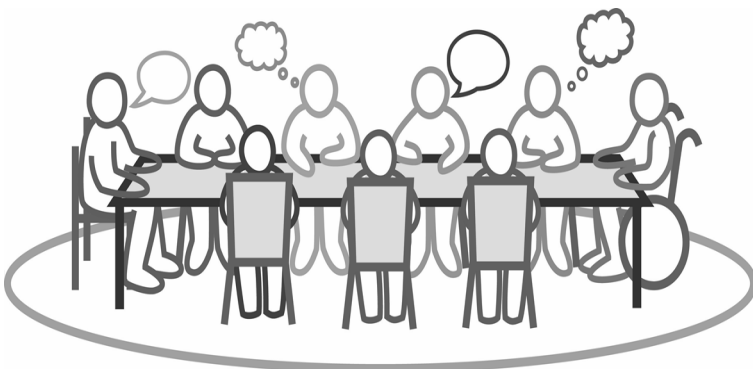
Have you got some spare time? If so, would you like to volunteer? St Martins Centre is looking for help with minute taking at a monthly meeting, or some office time. Ideally we would like the Centre to be open five mornings a week, and soon will be starting car boot sales again. Get in touch with the Centre if you can help!

It certainly looks like we have got to accept that Covid is here to stay, so please check that your neighbours are still happy to shop, or do they want some help? Contact a member of the Parish Council if you are concerned about someone, we can pass on your concerns to the right person to help.

I have enjoyed seeing daylight hours increasing and the days getting brighter, even though the fields are very muddy it is good to get out for a walk.

St Martins Women's Institute ladies walk each Friday, meeting at The Cenotaph outside Stans at 10am. Walks vary, from an hour up to two hours, good walking shoes are advised.

Happy New Year to you all, from Helen Williams.



### Current Parish Councillors

Neil Arthan	01691 777751
Andrew Cast	01691 773389
Vivienne Fisher	01691 770049
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
John Hodgson	07841 451212
Alan Langley	01691 772368
Duncan Laing	07702 991845
Nina Mistry	01691 657324
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
Lesley-Anne Roberts	01691 776438
Natalie Rowley	07870 507509
Sophie Hughes-Saunier	01691 778806
Sue Schofield	01691 777710
George Smith	01691 770286
Helen Williams	01691 777561

# **Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk**

After the elections in May 2021 there were a number of vacancies on the Parish Council. Following the latest notice of these casual vacancies, George Smith from Firs Close has been co-opted onto the Parish Council which now brings the Parish Council up to its full strength of 15 members. Contact details for all Parish Councillors are included in this magazine.

The Parish Council have again set their precept for the parish for the year 2022/23 with a zero % increase from last year. In fact it is now many years since the Parish Council increased their precept.

There are still a number of issues that were brought to the Parish Council last year that remain outstanding. These include:

Concern over the dangerous state of the fencing adjacent to the car park along Overton Road next to the Take-away shops, which had been reported to the landowner who is also responsible for the state of the wooden fencing surrounding the Electricity Sub Station next to these shops. In places the concrete posts and wire fencing are overhanging the footpath that is well used by children and parents walking to school. At the start of December 2021 the landowner confirmed that this would be removed ASAP. He was again reminded on the 10<sup>th</sup> January that this had still not been done.

At least 22 street lights along Overton Road and Ellesmere Road which are owned and maintained by Shropshire Council are not working, some of which have been reported over 12 months ago. Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport is aware of this and taking this up with the street lighting department at Shropshire Council who sub-contract out these repairs.

Planning is another issue where the Parish Council have concerns. All planning applications are considered by the parish councillors, who listen to local concerns and comments and report these via the Shropshire Council planning portal. Recently, questions were raised and further clarification requested from the planning officer dealing with a relevant application, only for the Parish Council to be advised by the Assistant Director of Economy and Place at Shropshire Council that officers in planning services do not normally go back to all the consultees and third party representatives who send in comments, as they do not have the capacity due to the volume of comments received overall. We have advised them that in this one case we were asking for clarification on a number of concerns, not making comments, before submitting our response.

Another area of concern is the reporting of highway issues. These are reported via the Shropshire Council 'My Shropshire' reporting system. Although a reference number is sent back within 24 hours these reports then sit in the system. At present we have 8 outstanding reports dating back to January 2021 which include dog fouling, overgrown hedges and shrubs over footpaths, sunken roadside manhole covers, pot holes and a request for dropped kerbs on either side of the bridge at Escob, along Overton Road at its junction with New Ifton, as well as re-adjustments by the Memorial Garden adjacent to Green Lane and access to the crossing.

The Parish Council would like to stress that any concerns that the public have, whether these are police issues, highway issues or street lighting issues, and reported to either a Parish Councillor, the Parish Clerk or at a Parish Council meeting, are reported to the relevant authorities responsible for these services. As you can see from the above reports, the lack of response we receive is very disappointing however we will continue to monitor these and continue to express our concerns over the lack of progress and responses.

Edward Davies, St Martins Parish Clerk

# Shropshire Council

**Councillor Steve Davenport**

*County Councillor for St Martins, Dudleston, and Dudleston Heath*

Tel 07944097876    Email [steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk)

Dear all

As we move into 2022, let's hope we have a more settled year all round and we can all start to move forward.

I do hope that those who are able to have had their COVID boosters or will get theirs booked in as soon as they can.

In the theme of moving forward, there's quite a lot going on in the village:

The Parish Council have now got a project manager to run the new sports field behind the school, we are hoping things will start to take shape soon and although it's a long-term project we are very excited about what progress will start to be made.

Both the Parish Council and I are trying to have Shropshire Council make a decision on the design of the Stans roundabout. There are over 22 lights out in the village so again we are trying to get this sorted with Shropshire Council. I have also been pressing the Chirk surgery to make a decision either way on the surgery in the village, they have yet to do so and we are all getting very frustrated with this.

Please also can I make an appeal for help at the St Martins Centre either for volunteers or trustees; it's definitely worthwhile if you have time on your hands to give a little, please.

Steve



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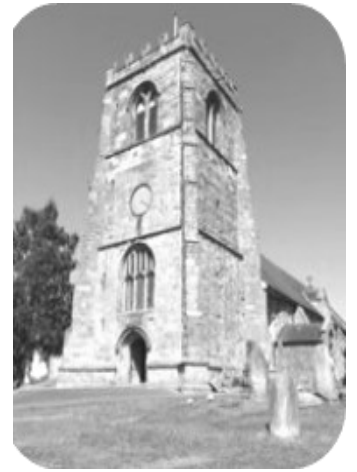
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for an application form

# *St Martins Parish Church*



## **Service times**

**Sundays: 9:30am** our usual Morning Worship Service, also streamed on zoom.  
Goto our website for details

## **Weekly Events**

Tuesdays - Coffee Morning - OPENING SOON.

Wednesdays 9:30am - Morning Prayer.

Fridays Youth Group - school years 5-7 and year 9 - 11 *for info please ask.*

Afternoon Social - starting soon in the Church Hall.

**Monthly “Praise Rave”** - a time of Praise and Worship.

1st Wednesday of the month - 7.30pm

Next one Wednesday 2nd February.

**To book a Christening or Wedding**

**and for any other enquiry please contact.**

Revd Stuart Jermy - [saintmartinjohns@icloud.com](mailto:saintmartinjohns@icloud.com);

Tel: 778 468; mobile: 07766 255436

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

# **Sunday Social Club**

*(Supported by St. Martins Church)*



*Are you at a loss to know what to do on a Sunday Afternoon?*

This may be because you live alone and your family do not live close or are involved in other activities on a Sunday Afternoon. If so, we invite you to join us at

**St. Martins Church Chapter House  
on  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 3.30 p.m.**

When our monthly social gathering takes place where we meet and chat with like-minded people and also share a cup of tea, sandwiches and cake. These events take place on the first Sunday of each month. There is a small subscription of £1.00. We look forward to seeing you there.

If mobility is a problem it may be possible to provide transport if you live not too far from the Centre.

For further information please contact:  
Mrs Valerie Thompson on 01691 658756

## **Sunday Social Club**

The volunteers at the Sunday Social Club would like to thank all of those who attend for your support since our re-opening.

Let's hope that 2022 will see us all getting back to "normal" whatever normal is going to mean for the future.

We wish all our members a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all at our first meeting in 2022 on the 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Val Thompson





# St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister for St Martins

Rev Julia Skitt - phone: 07810 360778

FEBRUARY	6th	13th	20th	27th
ST MARTINS	@ Moors 11.00	Brown 11.00	@ Moors 11.00	Own arrangement 10.00
MOORS	Bennett 11.00	@ St Martins 11.00	Watts 11.00	Own arrangement 11.00

We will continue worshipping when safe to do so.

Please wear face covering where appropriate and maintain social distance.

## ST MARTINS YOUTHIE

St Martins Centre, SY11 3AY

# Indoors or outdoors, we are back!

Watch our Facebook page: [STMartinsYOUTHCLUB](#) for details.

All school year 6 & older welcome.

Thanks to our funders:

St Martins Parish Council, Arnold Clark Community Fund



# Meet your Safer Neighbourhood Team

We are a dedicated group of police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) who work with local communities and partner organisations to keep our residents, businesses and visitors safe and to prevent crime and tackle anti-social behaviour in your locality.

Officers can be contacted on the below numbers concerning community issues. To report a crime in progress call 999 and for non emergencies, report online at [www.westmercia.police.uk/report](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/report). If you are unable to report online, you can contact us via the 101 non-emergency number.



Inspector  
Claire Greenaway



Sergeant  
Michael Dulson

## Oswestry Rural North

[oswestrym.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestrym.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)



PC  
Katie Le'Clere  
07870 219518



PCSO  
David Hughes  
07870 219190



PCSO  
Pete Roberts  
07870 219019

## Oswestry Central

[oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)



PC  
Paul Downes  
07976 938360



PCSO  
Robert Hamer  
07870 218811

## Oswestry Rural South

[oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)



PC  
Roy Alderwick  
07792 774130



PCSO  
Stuart Carroll  
07970 544372



PCSO  
Charlie Iremonger  
07870 166222



PCSO  
Kurt Mabe  
07870 219669



PCSO  
Andrew Neeves  
07870 166291

## Ellesmere Town and Rural

[ellesmeretr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ellesmeretr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)



PC  
Paul Crump  
07870 219070



PCSO  
Kerry Hogg  
07870 219593



PCSO  
Tracey Walker  
07870 218656

Whilst the information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information (November 2021).

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SUNDAY 8AM-8PM

**ST MARTINS COMMUNITY POND &  
ORCHARD  
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Well, the 'rain dance' worked and recent rain has filled the pond. The banks are settling and will need grass seed in the Spring. Re-stocking will take place when the water conditions are right.



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## FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS

Unfortunately we are in January and still not meeting normally so I do not have a lot of information for you. So I have included the results of the butterfly survey we have been involved with over the last three years and although COVID as affected the results I thought you might find it interesting. Lee from Shropshire Council organised this on several sites including Ifton Meadows: see below. If anyone is interested in joining the survey please get in touch with Ann 01978710327 who will forward your details onto Lee.

Site	No.species 19	No.individuals 19	No.Transects 19
Cliffe	0	0	0
Colemere	14	49	14
Hodnet	12	40	5
Ifton Meadows	19	459	28
Lyth hill	21	243	20
Merrington green	16	173	16
Stanmore	22	143	19
Wollerton pools	8	26	3
Site	No.species 20	No.individuals 20	No.Transects 20
Cliffe	0	0	0
Colemere	0	0	0
Hodnet	0	0	0
Ifton Meadows	19	501	14
Lyth hill	0	0	0
Merrington green	15	682	20
Stanmore	15	366	9
Wollerton pools	0	0	0
Site	No.species 21	No.individuals 21	No.Transects 21
Cliffe	18	545	24
Colemere	0	0	0
Hodnet	0	0	0
Ifton Meadows	13	113	6
Lyth hill	16	620	20
Merrington green	15	481	19
Stanmore	14	170	9
Wollerton pools	0	0	0



# ST MARTINS CENTRE

## THE OF THE COMMUNITY

Tel: 01691 770204 (please leave a message)

Email: [stmartinscentre@mail.com](mailto:stmartinscentre@mail.com)

*WE ARE GRADUALLY RE-OPENING. Watch for details*

FB: St Martins Village Centre

FB: St Martins Chatter

POSTERS around the village

BOOK BOX sign on our front fence

**Overton Road, St Martins, Oswestry, SY11 3AY**

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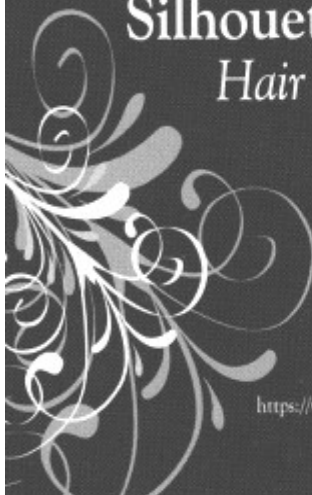
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**MOB: 07957 909106**

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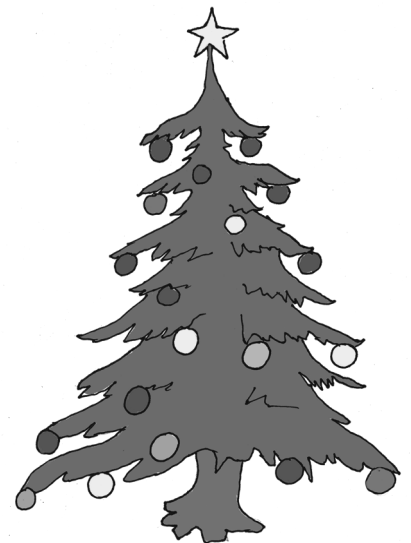
Ellesmere Road  
St Martins  
01691 773974  
<https://www.facebook.com/Silhouettehairandbeautystmartins>  
SY113AZ

## St Martins Christmas Tree

Well, Ash, Emma Alum and Ash's friend, have done it again. **A BIG THANK YOU** for yet again raising the tree and decking it out with so many lights, as well as the other lights across the back and, new for this year, the pole. Ash, you are an inspiration to all of us. The tree was donated for the community by Stans Superstore and most of the lights have also been donated, THANKS TO THOSE PEOPLE TOO, but Ash gets his team together and no matter what the weather they are out there working really hard for our enjoyment.

The Mayor of Oswestry, Mr Mark Jones of the Sarn farm, attended and gave a speech that made people laugh and was quite an encouragement. Heather Jones' grandson switched on the lights in remembrance of his grandad. It is the second most attended outdoor event in the village and long may it continue.

That tree always makes me smile whenever I see it, I feel quite excited, it's Christmas!



Leslie Younger

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## **The Queen's Green Canopy**

St Martins Parish Council's Climate Action committee are meeting with Shropshire Council to obtain permission to plant trees and native wildflowers, in order to prevent loss of biodiversity and habitats, the effects of heat waves, flooding, air pollution and also to commemorate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022. If you would like to be a tree planting volunteer, please contact St Martins Parish Council.

We would like to invite everyone, on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II, to plant a tree for the jubilee: [queensgreencanopy.org](https://queensgreencanopy.org)



You may decide to plant a fruit or nut tree; mixed native species hedge; a tree to preserve a sense of the place you live. E.g. Cherry Tree Drive, Oak Drive/ Oakfield Close, Willow Close, Hawthorn Close, Juniper Close, Poplar Close, Beech Tree Lane/ Beech Trees, Sycamore Close, Cedar Close, Fir Close, Baytree Avenue, Laburnum Close, The Hollies, The Pines etc. Or plant a Common Box near your post box- the choice is yours.

You can find tree planting advice and purchase trees with free delivery via The Woodland Trust [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

If you cannot afford to buy a tree, or need help planting, please contact St Martins Parish Council, and they will endeavour to provide/ plant a native tree sapling for you.

Take a photo of you next to your newly planted tree(s) and send to [stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com) to be shared in the magazine. Don't forget to also add a pin to The Queen's Green Canopy map online!

## **Veganuary**

New Year's diet going well? It's never too late to kick-start a healthy, planet-friendly, ethical lifestyle, and what better way than with Veganuary's free cookbook [veganuary.com](https://veganuary.com)

Did you know changing to a plant-based, seasonal, organic, plastic and palm oil free diet and preventing food waste will reduce your carbon footprint by 75%!





# WHAT IS THE RISK FOR OUR REGION NOW AND IN THE FUTURE?

IF WE DON'T ACT NOW, THE COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES WILL GROW.

## ENVIRONMENT



Increasing stress for salmon.



Impacts on forests from insects, disease and fire.



Changes in habitat important to local species.

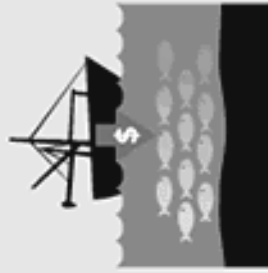


More harmful algal blooms in lakes and Puget Sound.

## ECONOMY



Greater risks to homes, businesses, and infrastructure from increased coastal and river flooding.



Marine-based economies suffer as fish and shellfish diminish.



Increased summer drought stress.

## HEALTH



Health impacts from heat exposure.



Changes in illnesses carried by ticks and mosquitos.



Increased risks for people with asthma and heart illness due to more summer air pollution.



Greater risk of injury and property damage from more extreme weather events.

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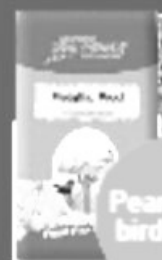
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signs  
available on  
request



Range of Space Heaters



NETS OF  
KINDLING  
3 FOR  
£5.00



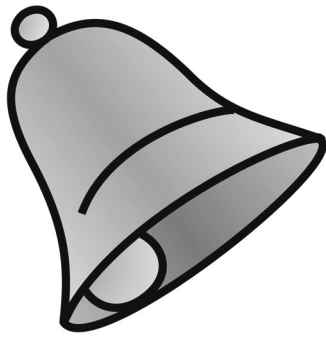
Totes of Offcuts  
£15.75 inc VAT

Totes of Hardwood Logs  
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140 and  
240 litre available





## St Martins Church

### Bell Ringers

St Martins Bell tower will be looking for **NEW RINGERS** this year. If you would like to learn or re-kindle your old skills, get in touch and I can arrange a practice session for you.

Dave Cartwright. tel: 01691 778215



# Secure Savings & Affordable Loans



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LOTTERY FUNDED

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## **Wills, Probate, Powers of Attorney**

Wills £150

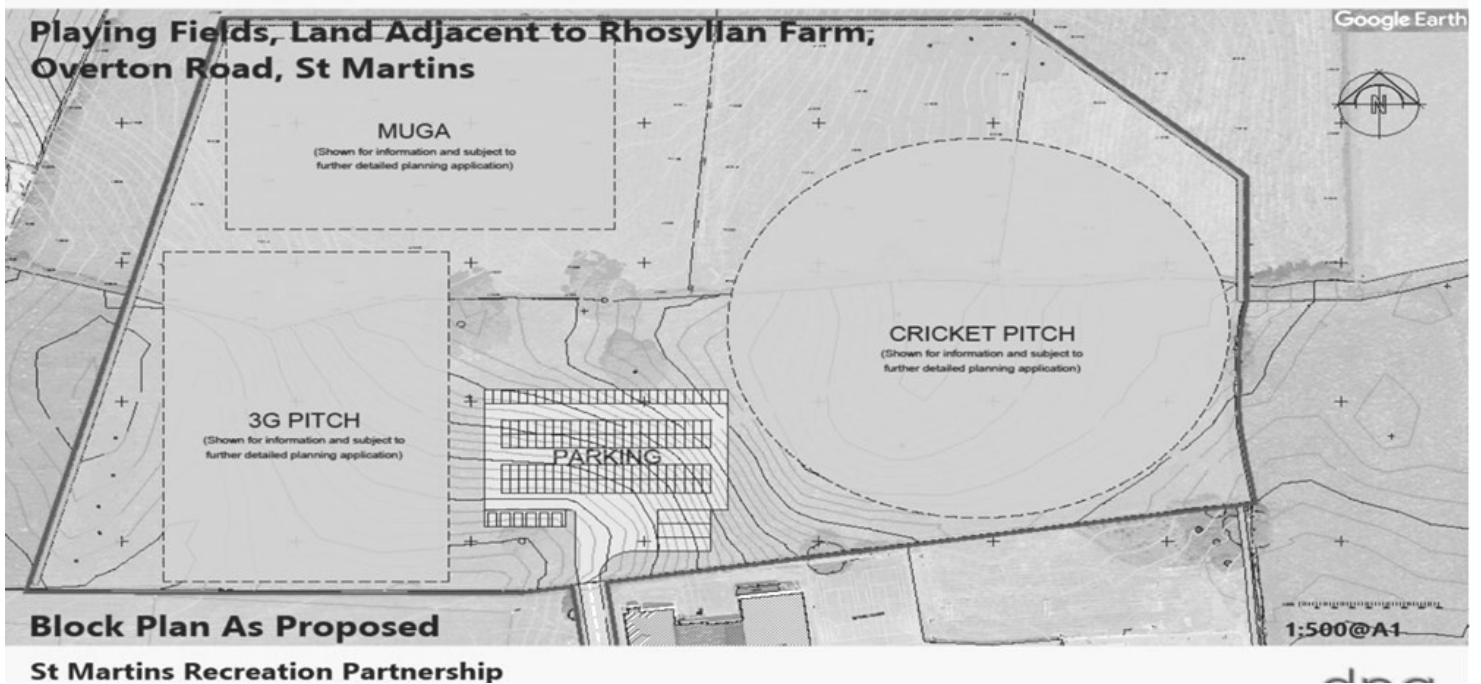
Lasting Powers of Attorney £150

Probate – call for details

For Free info Call Paul Humphreys on:

**Tel. 01691 652233**

[www.Asset-Wealth-Preservation.co.uk](http://www.Asset-Wealth-Preservation.co.uk)



The Parish Council working with the School and the Community' - an exciting proposal to extend and improve sports facilities for St Martins and the surrounding area.

- The land at the western side of the current School playing field will most likely be used to form an earth barrier (or bund) between the School and the adjacent Bank Top Industrial Estate,
- The remainder of the current School playing field will continue to be available for grass based sports activities
- St Martins Recreation Partnership wish to generate more detailed ideas for facilities on both existing and new land areas as a follow up to the earlier Parish Council surveys.
- This is an exciting opportunity for our community – but we need your input if we are to get it right

## **The Recreation Partnership Needs You!!**

**Please contact either the school Email:  
Cindy.Hellyn-Jones@stmartins3-16.org**

**Or**

**Edward Davies Clerk to Parish Council:  
clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk**

*Ask not what I can get out of this project  
but what can I give to this project.*

## Three Parishes Community Wildlife Group

covering the parishes of  
St Martins, Weston Rhyn and Selattyn & Gobowen

### Lapwing and Curlew

If you enjoy seeing Lapwing and Curlew, and would like to do something to help stop their disappearance from the local countryside, we would like your help, please.



We need to know how many breeding pairs there are, and where, before we can try and help them. We looked for them up until 2019, in an area roughly bounded by Oswestry in the south, the border with Wales to the west and north, and Duddleston Heath and Lower Frankton in the east (the three parishes of Weston Rhyn, St Martin's and Gobowen, plus an area to the east, towards Ellesmere). We found three pairs of Curlew, and about 30 pairs of Lapwing. Our work was disrupted by Covid-19 in the last two years, but

we are starting again this coming Spring.

People who have helped previously will be asked to help again, but new helpers will be very welcome, please.

Participants take on a survey square of 2x2 kilometres and visit it three times, using lanes and public footpaths. You choose the dates, to suit you, around 1st April, 1st May and 15th June. Each visit takes less than half a day, so it doesn't take much time. It's easy to do, and participants are provided with simple survey instructions and a map to record sightings on. If possible, we'd also like you to record Kestrel, Cuckoo, and other target species, but that's an optional extra.

A meeting is planned for 7.30pm on Thursday 17 March, at St Martins Village Centre, Overton Road, SY11 3AY (next to Stans Supermarket), to describe these birds and where we've found them previously, explain what's involved to new participants, and launch the 2022 survey. If it can't be held, or new helpers can't attend, they will be briefed by email. There will be a practical (socially-distanced) training session, explaining how to go about the survey, and record what you see, around the end of March, if you feel you need it. If you definitely want to help, please let us know before the meeting.



More information can be found on our Website  
<https://www.shropscwgs.org.uk/3-parishes-wildlife-group/>

For more information about the Wildlife Group, or the meeting, please ring Polly Smith, the Chair, on 01691 239087.

If you want to help with the survey, or would like further information about it, please contact Leo Smith ([leo@leosmith.org.uk](mailto:leo@leosmith.org.uk))

# What's on in February 2022!

Tues 1st	WI Sarah Hopper with 'Tales of life behind and in front of guests at a B & B'.	The Lounge of the Miners Institute	7:30pm
Wed 9th	Weston Rhyn & District Gardening Club 'Not all Nettles' by Jill Cawthray	Weston Rhyn Institute,	7:30pm
Thurs 10th	St Martins Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm