

March 2022

St Martins Village Life



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

Chapter House Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00pm
Contact: Debbie Shaw 01691 777130

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 2nd 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
Scouts - Dave Cripps (scouts) 2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com

St Martins Village Life—stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com

St Martins Village Hall/Centre:

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

Community Speedwatch:

Anyone interested in joining the monitoring please contact Sue Schofield 01691 777710 or email: suescho1951@gmail.com

Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

Hello and Welcome to our April magazine. We hope you will find some interesting and informative reads.

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK those of you who continue to donate on a regular basis, it is really making the difference. If you don't and would like to, please drop me an email and I'll make sure that our treasurer responds with the appropriate information.

The world is changing in so many different ways, it's sometimes hard to keep-up with it all. Looking at our own village, the former Ifton Heath School has gone and the work has started on building new homes. The bats have a new home too, a purpose built bat barn/hotel in the Forest School as was. The cover of this magazine is a tribute to the school which served the community of St Martins for nearly 100 years and hopefully the former staff and pupils will see it as a bit more of just a nod to them.

It is hoped to run the Grow it, Make it, Show it, show this year, most likely Saturday 10th September at the Miners' Institute, there should be lots more information in the next magazine. There is a thought that we might like to extend the show to include all clubs who would have their own stalls to promote themselves, what do you think please let Sue know on the Village Life email address below.



April 23rd is St Georges Day the patron saint of England, could you wear a red rose.

[illegible]

**If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication
please email it to stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com
by no later than Wednesday 11th May 2022**

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 know of anyone not receiving one please email
stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com

Parish Council

FROM THE CHAIR

Spring is springing, thank goodness, crocus, daffodils and verges coming to life, despite cold winds, but we are getting longer days, each evening seems to be a bit lighter.

Lots of plans being generated for celebrating Our Queens Jubilee Weekend, Thursday 2nd of June to Monday 6th June. Remember the street parties? Lots of families and friends getting together to celebrate and have fun. Plan ahead, decorate your house, remember the people who live alone, get them involved, make cakes, picnic on the field, rounders, lots of ideas, please get together and sort something out within your own locality.

Talk to your neighbours, lets have some fun.

New exercise groups are starting, look out for posters, look on St Martins Chatter, we all need to move forward after the last two years of worry. Village Life is out every two months, read it and join in. Volunteer, join a new group, can you help with Age UK? Cedar Close, each Tuesday, many clubs and groups would welcome you, look on the first page of this magazine, see if there is something that might interest you.

Parish Council meetings are 2nd Thursday of each month, and members of the public are able to put forward any concerns they have or ask a parish councillor to speak on their behalf, that is why we list our names and contact numbers. We do record your problems and try our best to resolve them.

Let Village Life know of your groups' meeting times and dates, the diary pages in the middle can list them.

On a Tuesday, starting in April, a coffee drop in morning on Tuesdays, at our Village Hall Centre, call in for a book to take home, stop and have a coffee(or tea), meet your friends in the warm room, there are also some children's books.

Open to all ages a fun morning of crafts, ready for Easter on Wednesday 13th April, decorated eggs, Easter bonnets or crowns. Would children like to take part in making some Easter goodies, an Easter crafts morning. Wednesday 13th April, at 10am,

Starting April 22nd, car boot sale, come along to get rid of all the bits and bobs that you can well do without.

Happy Easter, don't eat too much chocolate, 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 Langle	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

The latest parish council meeting was held in St Martins Centre on the 10th March 2022.

Planning issues seemed to dominate the agenda. Firstly on the development of eight Camping Pods to the South of Firs Close in St Martins. Despite objections from the parish council and many residents, Shropshire Council allowed this application to be approved by a delegated planning officer rather than putting this to the planning committee. Then in February this year a further application was submitted by the developer for the erection of a service building and amendments to the site layout of previously approved plan Ref 21/03260/FUL. One of the conditions on the first application required approval before the development commences; including a scheme of surface and foul water drainage has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Work on the amendments to the site layout of roads had taken place before approval on the surface and foul water drainage had been granted. This shows a lack of agreed council planning process. These concerns have now been sent to Shropshire Council's Head of Planning, Head of Legal and their Council Leader and registered under Shropshire Council's Formal Complaints Procedure.

Secondly a further concern has now been raised over the development at the old Ifton School. For many years now the parish council have been concerned over the capacity of the main sewerage system through the village following all the new development over the last few years. We understand that the developers will be undertaking a CCTV survey of the drainage system along Overton Road. We await the results.

With regard to the adoption of the roads on the Irvine Gardens estate, Shropshire Council's Developing Highways Manager has confirmed that the roads have only recently been final surfaced, with a 12 months maintenance period now in place before adoption can be completed.

There is still confusion over the future of the Doctors Surgery in St Martins. Despite a survey being carried out last year no results have been forthcoming on its future. The latest update we have received from the Chirk Surgery was that they had been advised that the next decision meeting is due to take place mid-March but no further information was available. A discussion then took place on the ownership of the branch surgery building and adjoining land in St Martins. It was stated that Chirk Surgery are claiming that this building and land is in their ownership and owned by the Chirk Surgery GP partners. We requested document evidence on this which has not been forthcoming, therefore clarification will now be sought through the Land registry.

Concerns have been expressed over the dangerous state of the fencing adjacent to the car park on Overton Road next to the three Take-away shops just before the school. It has been reported to the landowner on at least three occasions who is also responsible for the state of the wooden fencing surrounding the Electricity Sub Station next to these shops without any action being taken. This matter will now be put in the hands of Shropshire Council's Highways department.

Our thanks go to Councillor Sophie Hughes-Saunier and the many volunteers who carried out a tree planting scheme in the village and surrounding highway verges over the weekend of the 12th/13th March.

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

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Dear All

I'm sure like me, you're saddened at what's happening in the Ukraine. It's almost a disbelief in the 21st century in Europe, seems we go from one crisis to another. I do hope you're keeping safe. In St Martins we are still waiting on Chirk surgery to confirm any decision on the future of their surgery in the village, this has to happen before negotiations can take place. I do thank Viv & Terry for all their help.

St Martins Community Speedwatch are reporting most people keep to the limit in the village, I'm trying to improve road safety measures around the school. I'm meeting Shropshire Council highways this week. Please keep a look out on Facebook for details on the Queens Jubilee events that are being brought together by Keith Allum, supported by Stan's, Big local & local businesses.

There are new people, families moving into the village all the time, it will be nice for everyone to join together in these celebrations.

Also please look out for events now being arranged at St Martins Village Hall Centre, don't forget the library is available. Please call in and take a look around, the hall is available for hire, again please call in for details.

*Steve*



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# *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

**Wednesdays 9:30am** - Morning Prayer.

**Wednesdays** - Coffee Morning - 10:30-11:30

**Fridays 10am** The Walking Group meets in the church car park

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

**1st Sunday** of month - **Afternoon Social** - 3:00pm in the Church Hall.

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

**1st Wednesday** of the month - 7.30 -8:30pm

At all our services we will be praying for those caught up in the war in Ukraine.

Here is a prayer you can use at home.

## **A Prayer for Ukraine**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

*Archbishop Justin Welby Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

## **To book a Christening or Wedding**

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

Revd Stuart Jermy - saintmartinjohns@icloud.com;

Tel: 778 468; mobile: 07766 255436

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

# Climate Action

Over 100 trees were planted by Climate Action St Martins Parish Council's group of volunteers on Sunday 13th March. St Martins Parish Church and Stan's will also be planting a tree this year to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. There's still time to plant a tree & add it to the map [queensgreencanopy.org](https://queensgreencanopy.org)



The climate crisis, brexit & war in Ukraine highlight the need to become more self sufficient, and less reliant on imports:

- Plant fruit pips in toilet roll tubes and put vegetable ends in water to stimulate root regeneration = free food from waste. Also find free items via the Olio app.
- Create a compost heap, easily made out of old pallets (find on freegle, free cycle or freeloved), using your food & garden waste to provide free, nutrient-rich mulch for your garden.
- Install water butts to collect rainwater from your roof to water your plants for free.
- Repair belongings (contact Oswestry Repair Cafe). Borrow and find second-hand before buying new. Buy, sell & swap items via Vinted, eBay, Depop & Preloved.
- Ensure your home is well insulated, use a smart energy meter & turn your heating down to 18 degrees. Wear layers of natural fibre clothing to regulate your body temperature. Switch to a 100% renewable energy tariff. Air dry instead of using tumble dryer.
- Obtain quotes for solar panels, a heat pump & electric vehicle to eliminate your reliance on expensive, polluting fossil fuels. Look for green home improvement mortgage deals & grants.
- Buy British = Less air miles, supports our local economy & most likely better quality (long lasting) too. Switch to fossil fuel free investment bank such as Triodos.

## A seasonal guide to British fruit & vegetables:

**March:** Apples, Beetroot, Bussels Sprouts, Cabbages, Carrots, Cauliflowers, Celeriac, Chard, Courgettes, Garlic, Kale, Leek, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Onions, Parsnips, Pears, Potatoes, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Radishes, Red Cabbage, Rhubarb, Salad Leaves, Spinach, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Swede.

**April:** Apples, Asparagus, Cabbages, Carrots, Cauliflowers, Celeriac, Chard, Courgettes, Garlic, Kale, Leek, Lettuce, Mushrooms, New Potatoes, Onions, Parsnips, Pears, Potatoes, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Radishes, Rhubarb, Salad Leaves, Spinach, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Watercress.

**May:** Apricots, Asparagus, Aubergines, Broad Beans, Cabbages, Carrots, Cauliflowers, Chard, Cherries, Courgettes, Garlic, Gooseberries, Kale, Lettuce, Mushrooms, New Potatoes, Onion, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Radishes, Rhubarb, Rocket, Salad Leaves, Spinach, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Strawberries, Watercress.





# St Martins Methodist Church

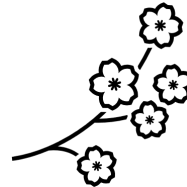
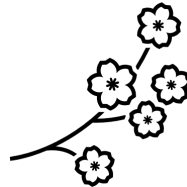
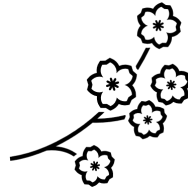
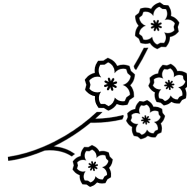
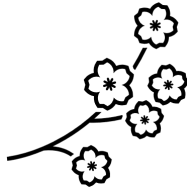
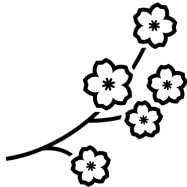
(Ellesmere Road)

Minister for St Martins

Rev Julia Skitt - phone: 07810 360778

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

| APRIL      | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 10 <sup>th</sup>         | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 24 <sup>th</sup>      |
|------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| ST MARTINS | @ Moors<br>11.00 | Own arrangement<br>10.00 | @ Moors<br>11.00 | Watts<br>11.00        |
| MOORS      | Brown<br>11.00   | Own arrangement<br>11.00 | Bennett<br>11.00 | @ St Martins<br>11.00 |



| MAY        | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 8 <sup>th</sup>          | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 22 <sup>nd</sup>      | 29 <sup>th</sup>         |
|------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| ST MARTINS | @ Moors<br>11.00 | Own arrangement<br>10.00 | @ Moors<br>11.00 | Watts<br>11.00        | Own arrangement<br>10.00 |
| MOORS      | Brown<br>11.00   | Own arrangement<br>11.00 | Bennett<br>11.00 | @ St Martins<br>11.00 | Own arrangement<br>11.00 |

# Welcome to Neighbourhood Matters

Find out what's really happening in your area and keep in touch with West Mercia Police through our free messaging service.

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what we're doing in your community.

You're invited to sign up and become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone.

Don't worry, we won't bombard you with every incident. You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive.

We'd really like to hear from you so why not ask your family, friends and colleagues to register too? Let's get talking!

Please sign up to this service at the website:

**[www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)**

Please note that this service is not for reporting crimes or incidents – to make a report please contact West Mercia Police via the West Mercia Police website or dial 999 in an emergency.

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**



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**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







Volunteers, Nick & Natalie clearing storm damage.

The filming is for the “BIG PICTURE”, recording the progress of projects in the Three Parishes Big Local area. The “BIG PICTURE”, run by Birmingham University is making a video record of 15 such projects around England.



# ST MARTINS COMMUNITY POND & ORCHARD

(ARTHANS POND)

The weather has been kind to us at last! The sluice needs a bit of work, but the bank is drying out ready for grass seed. When the fence has been repaired and is ‘otter proof’ we can look at restocking with fish.

Lighter evenings will bring the return of Wednesday working parties and we hope to see volunteers come forward to re-start the St Martins Angling Club.

Watch out for updates on Facebook:

*‘St Martins Village Centre’*

*‘St Martins Chatter’*



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## FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS

Due to the storms in February we have been unable to work on site. Each week we made arrangements to work and then I had to ring around to cancel. Who could have envisaged the type of weather we have had after a relatively dry January.

I am writing this on the 1st of March and by the time you read it we hopefully have managed to coppice the willow from the wildlife corridor at the far end of the reserve by Pen y Banc. You may have seen farmers rushing to cut back their hedges recently this is because it is illegal to cut back hedges (due to birds breeding) between the 1st March and 31st August unless it is for coppicing or a danger, because we are coppicing we can still work on this area but have to be careful in other areas. Coppicing is when you cut back trees/shrubs which then shoot from the bottom - this was used years ago to make charcoal or for weaving into baskets or fencing. We do it in this area because the willow is taking over and we need to add different types of trees to make this hedgerow more diverse.

In the same vein I would like to remind people that March is the start of the breeding season for our SKYLARKS so could you please keep off the Mound from now until September while they are breeding. Skylarks are ground nesting birds who are on the ENDANGERED RED LIST - for them to breed successfully they do **NOT** need **PEOPLE OR DOGS** disturbing their nests - you have all helped to increase the numbers we have over the years by doing this and I thank you for that and to remind you that under the wildlife and countryside act it is a criminal offence to Intentionally or recklessly disturb such listed birds.



The Snowdrops gave us a lovely display during January and February and into March and by the time you read it the Celandines and Dogs Mercury will have been providing us with more colour and beauty throughout March, this will be followed by the Wild Garlic in the Dingle with its pungent smell and swathes of flowers, also look out for the Bluebells as they will now be coming into bud and flower at the end of April and into May and June or maybe they will arrive earlier as the daffodils in my garden have this year.

I would like to remind everyone that we are always looking for more helpers - everyone is welcome the only restriction is that anyone under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult - this is for two reasons 1- we use sharp tools and 2 - we are not vetted to work with children. We normally work on the second Sunday of each month, meeting at 1.30p.m. at the Colliery (main) entrance.

Friends of Ifton Meadows



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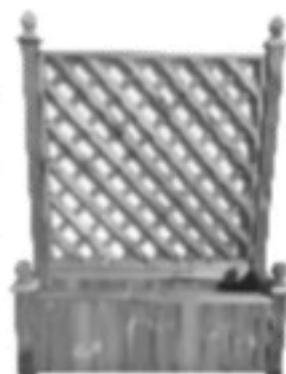
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## ST MARTINS CENTRE

### THE OF THE COMMUNITY

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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

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ARRON ELLIS THOMAS  
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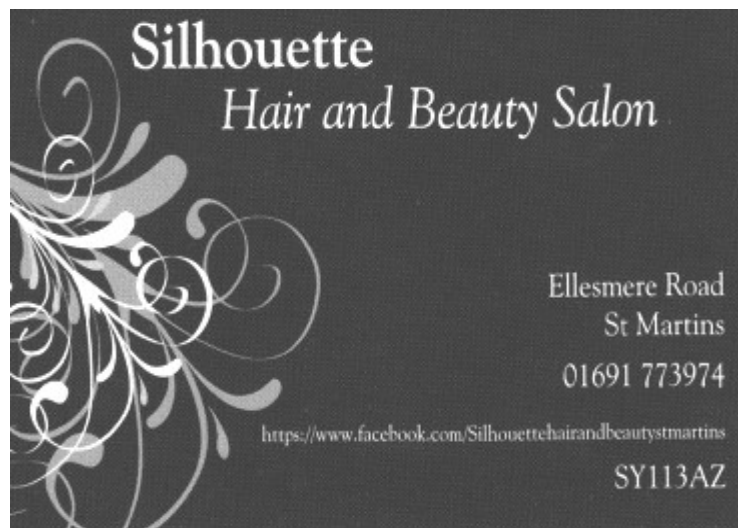
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**MOB: 07957 909106**



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Here is a copy of a letter sent on 4th March 2022 to:

Mark Polin, Health Board Chairman, Betsi Cadwalader Health Board, Bangor

We await a reply.

Dear Mr Polin

Two years ago St. Martin's surgery closed. This is a branch of Chirk surgery which is just inside Shropshire. There are over 4000 patients on the "English" side of the border. Chirk is not accessible without a vehicle, the bus service does not serve the majority of the village.

Covid was cited as a "temporary" closure two years ago. We as a community have organised petitions, e petitions sent letters had newspaper articles, discussed it in the Parish Council every month. I joined the Parish council to try to help. I am a retired nurse and thought at least we could have comprehensive responses for our plea for a yes or no answer to the reopening, or permanent closure. I write regularly to the Practice Manager at Chirk.

Your meeting cancelled in January and is now scheduled for mid-March. We cannot move on with providing local Health care until we have a definitive answer from you.

St. Martins is the largest village in Shropshire and growing much larger .

Please update me as soon as possible with The Health Boards intention.

Yours sincerely

Vivienne Fisher

Leslie Younger  
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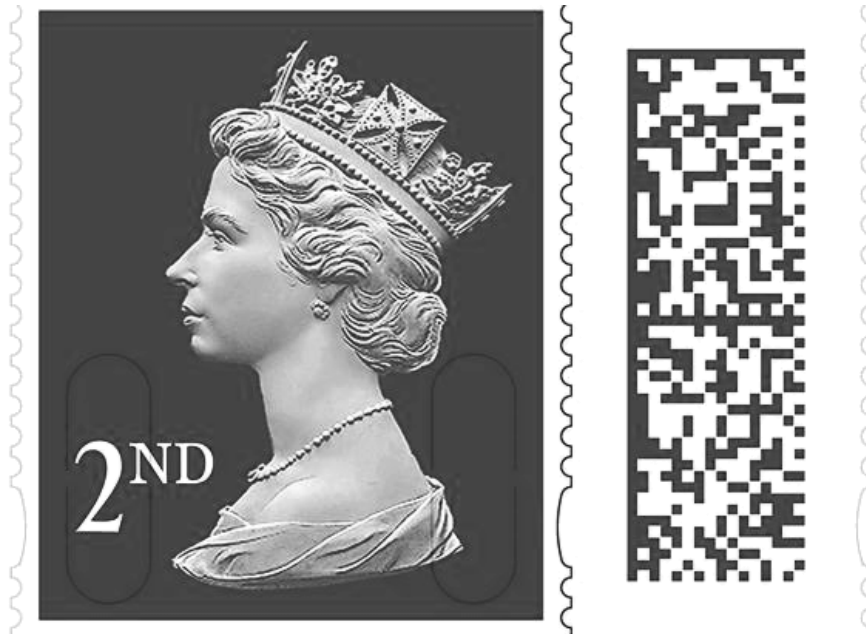
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# When are Royal Mail stamps changing?

## And what to do with your old 1st and 2nd class stamps



**Both first and second class stamps will feature a barcode, which recipients scan to see an animated film (Image: PA)**

The way stamps are issued is changing, with Royal Mail introducing a new barcoded stamp.

Royal Mail explained: "Following a successful national trial we will now be adding unique barcodes to all our regular 'everyday' Definitive and Christmas stamps."

Special issue stamps will not have barcodes on.

Each barcoded stamp will have a digital twin and the two will be connected via the Royal Mail App.

The move is intended to improve operational efficiencies and security features.

The barcodes will match the stamp colour and must remain intact for the stamp to be considered valid.

You will be able to 'swap out' your old stamps for new ones from March 31, 2022.

You can do this through a [Swap Out form](#) - by contacting Royal Mail Customer

Experience and having a form delivered to you, or pick one up from your Royal Mail Delivery Office's Customer Service point.

The new stamps are available to buy now on the Royal Mail online shop.

The barcodes will provide customers with access to exclusive video content, including one that features the lovable Shaun the Sheep.

The non-barcoded stamps will be usable until January 31, 2023 so be sure to use them up.



Wayne McNamara  
**FURNITURE ASSEMBLY**

Assembly and Disassembly of all Flat Pack Furniture

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Contact: **07564892510**

(Mobile / SMS or Whats App)

wayneantmc@gmail.com



## **MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP AT THE VILLAGE HALL CENTRE**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP  
RESTARTED**

**WE HAVE THE EQUIPMENT, JUST NEED A GROUP LEADER.**

**PLEASE CONTACT**

**HELEN WILLIAMS IF YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP  
07599 309 889**

### **A ROBERTS**



#### **Landscaping and tree care**

- Trees pruned, trimmed & shaped
- Garden clearance
- Hedge cutting
- Patios and Fencing
- All rubbish removed

**01691 770054  
07725 819414**

26 Cherry Tree Drive, St Martins  
Shropshire SY11 3EQ



### **Len's Plaice**

#### **Opening Times**

|      | Lunch        | Evenings   |
|------|--------------|------------|
| Mon  | 11:45 - 1:30 | 5pm - 8-00 |
| Tues | Closed       | Closed     |
| Wed  | 11:45 - 1:30 | 5pm - 8-00 |
| Thur | 11:45 - 1:30 | 5pm - 8-00 |
| Fri  | 11:45 - 1:30 | 5pm - 8-00 |

**01691772413  
Closed Bank Holiday Mondays**

# Weston Rhyn Gardening Club

Almost there! That is, covid restrictions are lifted and we can get back to some normality.



Learning to live with covid will be the norm and Weston Rhyn Gardening Club are living proof of this. Good turn out for Jill Cawthray talk on Not all Nettle . An intriguing title I thought, what can that be all about. Jill, an environmental science graduate who lives locally did not disappoint. Familiar to some people in the audience as she is frequently seen at Plant Fairs locally which will be held at Whittington Castle on the 15th of April. Free entry but pay to park, event runs from 10am until 4pm.

Jill's talk highlighted on promoting wildlife but not wilderness in our gardens. The main message was not to be too tidy in our gardens . There are various ways of increasing wildlife to our gardens and here are some pointers.

1. A perfect manicured lawn was an inspiration for all diligent gardeners but it is no longer the case. Many follow the National Trust campaign of No Mow May. Why do you ask? If one leaves the grass to grow we encourage small mammals to thrive and pollinators to grow such as the wild daisy and white clover. If a manicured lawn is your thing, maybe leave sections of grass to grow or even create a wild meadow incorporating nettles, snake head fritillary, buttercups, teasel and other natural species.
2. A water feature in a garden brings a variety of wildlife into your space, The water feature can be as small as a buried bucket or trough no need to have a sizable pond.
3. Build a bug hotel or even leave leaves, twigs, rotten wood into a pile that provides shelter and food for various invertebrates to enjoy.
4. Hedgerows are beneficial so if replacing a fence consider planting a hedge, If fences are your thing plant evergreen climbers such as clematis , ivy etc. allow gaps in the fence for passing mammals.
5. Composting garden waste uncooked house waste will enrich your garden and once again provide habitat for worms , woodlice and the like.
6. Feeding birds in winter adds another dimension to your garden. This can be enhanced by placing bird boxes around the garden at a height cats cannot reach.
7. Consider planting flowers and shrubs throughout the year so as to encourage the bees and moths into your garden.

The key is not to be too tidy, and in autumn allow the garden to sleep naturally. We have lost 50% of our hedgerows and 97% of our wild meadows without mentioning woodlands so as gardeners we can help rekindle British wildlife.

The inclement weather is depressing but we can store rainwater in water butts for later in the year and wherever possible recycle useful plastic waste such as plastic milk/pop bottles as flower pots for example **On creating an interesting 12 month garden** . On April 13th Anne Harrison gives a demonstration and talk on propagation and plants for free which will come in very handy for our plant sale on May14th at the Institute.

We look forward to welcoming all members and visitors to our meetings 7.15 for 7.30pm start at the Institute. Once again we will have a table for members to bring in seeds and plant cuttings to swap. Bethan Owen



## **St Martins Recreation Project:**

Following on from last issue's article about the future sport facilities proposed for the St Martins community, on land adjacent and beyond St Martins School, here is a further update:

- The Partnership Committee has been re-formed with representatives from St Martins School, St Martins Parish Council and St Martin Football Club to rekindle the good planning work completed before the world stopped for Covid.
- Works required to widen the access way off the main road were completed over the half term holiday by Evans Contractors. By doing these works this Spring we have ensured that our outline planning permission for a recreation site is secured and avoids it becoming lapsed, in the Summer, due to Covid delays.
- Our next main action is to start engaging with the Football Foundation for the installation of a new floodlit 3G surface football pitch; there will be several months of feasibility studies and business case work plus a further detailed planning application to ensure that a pitch would be physically possible and financially viable. This pitch, if built, will be funded by the Football Foundation for the local clubs to use, hopefully from early 2024.
- After the 3G football pitch is built, it is hoped that other facilities such as a MUGA (Multi User Games Area), a Clubhouse and a Cricket Pitch will be built but all depend on raising enough funds for their creation and continued maintenance.
- In addition to these more formal sports areas, it is planned to create a playing field area for the community to use for casual kick around and other recreation. These can be created more quickly than the formal areas; hopefully during 2024 as the football pitch work concludes.

As soon as the activity with the Football Foundation is underway, the Partnership Committee will be asking for members of the community to get involved in taking forward the other options listed above.

Information is limited at the moment, as the preliminaries are being worked through, but if you would like to know more, or get involved with the community elements, please make contact.

Tessa Lanstein, St Martins Recreation Programme Manager

M: 07795 057420 E:tessa.lanstein@cmslimited.org.uk

# What's on in April 2022!

|                                 |                                                                                               |                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Tues 5th                        | <b>WI<br/>Spring Show</b>                                                                     | The Lounge of the Miners<br>Institute | 7:30pm            |
| Mon 11th<br>+ 13 other<br>dates | <b>Easter Egg hunt<br/>Please BOOK</b>                                                        | Chirk Castle                          | 10am –<br>4pm     |
| Wed 13th                        | <b>Easter Craft</b> and<br>Fun Morning, all ages<br>decorated Easter eggs,<br>bonnets, crowns | St Martins Village Hall<br>Centre     | 10am              |
| Wed 13th                        | Weston Rhyn & District<br>Gardening Club<br>'Plant propagation &<br>plants for free'          | Weston Rhyn Institute,                | 7:30pm            |
| Thurs 14th                      | St Martins Parish Council                                                                     | St Martins Village Hall<br>Centre     | 7:00pm            |
| Fri 15th                        | <b>Plant Fair</b><br>Free entry but pay to park                                               | Whittington Castle                    | 10am<br>until 4pm |
| Fri 22nd                        | <b>CAR BOOT DAY</b><br>By Stans,<br>refreshments available                                    | St Martins Village Hall<br>Centre     |                   |
|                                 |                                                                                               |                                       |                   |