

December 2022

St Martins  
**Village**  
**Life**



**This Magazine is Sponsored by Ridgway Rentals 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 and Chatter**

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      Lynn Morgan      778174

### **Age UK**

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

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

Workdays on 2nd Sunday of the month 1:30pm at the Meadows.  
Chair - Ann Williams      01978 710327

### **St Martins Youth Club**

St Martins Centre      Fridays in term time      7:00 - 8:00pm  
Contact Sue or Nick Heard      01691 774097

### **Youth Groups**

1st St Martins Rainbows (4-7years)      Tuesdays 5:00 — 6:00pm      Ellesmere Road Chapel  
1st St Martins Brownies      Tuesdays 6:00 — 7:00pm      Ellesmere Road Chapel  
1st St Martins Guides      Tuesdays 7:00 — 8:30pm      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 - 7:15pm	Meet in the Scout Hut
Scouts (10.5-14)Thursday	7:30 - 9:00pm	Meet in the Scout Hut

Contact: Dave Cripps      [2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com](mailto:2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com)

### **St Martins Village Life—[stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com)**

#### **St Martins Village Hall/Centre:**

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

#### **Community Speedwatch:**

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



# Parish Council

## FROM THE CHAIR

We have some freshly trained people in our village who know what to do when they are confronted with a medical emergency. Knowing how to use an available defibrillator is such a valuable thing. Youth Club had training sessions and there were also three further classes held in the Village Hall. They were led by Effie Cadwallader, an excellent trainer, and we are very grateful to her for giving up her time to teach us a valuable skill. Thank you Effie.

We have to remember the warm sunny days of summer, followed by a lovely mild autumn, now we are confronted by rain, grey days and cold weather. There are warm rooms available for you to go and get a tea or coffee and join in with chatting to others from the village. There are posters in the village advertising the places to go, such as: Tuesday Coffee and Chat at The Village Hall, from 10:00am, Coffee Morning at The Chapter House, as well as Sunday Social Club, held the first Sunday of each month at 3:00pm. Also, at The Chapter House from the 8th January every Sunday until March is Afternoon Tea from 3:30—5:30pm. Transport will be available; just contact the Vicar on 01691 778468.

Thursday morning you can go along to Ellesmere Road Methodist Church for their Coffee Mornings. There is also Age UK at Cedar Close 10:00am till 2:30pm on a Tuesday.

Shropshire County Council does have the responsibility for our main road lights, and it is good to see we are at last getting some lights back on Ellesmere Road. But there are lights out on other stretches of road. We do report them. Our side roads are Parish Council responsibility and we do get a good response from Highline, our contractors, whenever we report a problem. Always let a Parish Councillor know if there is a lighting fault, as we aim to get it rectified as soon as possible.

Our Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall, second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. Members of the public are welcome to come along and listen to our decisions, or you can come and let us know of any problems. We are all volunteers, and are here to support the village.

*I wish you a lovely  
Christmas and a  
Happy New Year*

Kind Regards 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

The last meeting of St Martins Parish Council was held in St Martins Village Hall on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Much of this meeting was taken up by reporting on long-standing issues within the parish, which included:

**Street Lighting.** After two years of reporting faults on streetlights along Ellesmere Road, Shropshire Council who maintain these lights have eventually started to repair these, although shades for these lights are still outstanding. However, a series of lights from the roundabout by Stans Superstore to the school along Overton Road, which were reported two months ago, are still awaiting maintenance by Shropshire Council's contractors, KIER. With the clocks altering at the end of October, Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport was aware of these concerns and is trying to put pressure on the Head of Street Lighting at Shropshire Council for urgent attention. This will now be brought to the attention of our MP Helen Morgan. Any faults to street lighting that are owned by the Parish Council and maintained by Highline Electrical are usually repaired within two weeks of being reported.

**Highway Issues.** Again, it is now over two years since the Parish Council met with officers from Shropshire Council to come up with suggestions and designs to improve the road structure around the junction of the three roads that meet at the mini roundabout by Stans Superstore. Although one design was forwarded to the Parish Council at the beginning of this year, various changes were suggested, and nine months later we are still waiting for an alternative design to take into account the views of the Parish Council.

Another long-standing highway issue is finding a way to improve the safety of vehicles crossing over Escob Bridge. Although Shropshire Councillor, Steve Davenport, has again met highway officers from Shropshire Council on site, with a suggestion of traffic lights either side of this bridge, nothing has been done about this. He is now hoping to meet Shropshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways, Councillor Richard Marshall, on site to demonstrate the safety issues at this bridge.

**School Safety.** Shropshire Council were asked some months ago to carry out an urgent review on safety issues outside the main school including inadequate street marking, speed limits, signage, and warning flashing lights. Still no response or site meeting arranged with the relevant officers.

Edward Davies,  
St Martins Parish Clerk

*Happy Christmas from all the  
Council members.*



# Shropshire Council

## **Councillor Steve Davenport**

County Councillor for St Martins, Dudleston, Dudleston Heath,

Cabinet Member for Highways

Mobile 07944097876

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

~~~~~

I can't believe it's the Christmas edition again.

Since our last edition many things are going on in the world, and even today I'm hearing, on the radio, more and more about a recession. Shropshire Council have got a webpage about cost of living help on their website. I can't advise here, as everyone's problems are different, but please go to the webpage, in case it can help you.

In the village much work continues on street lighting; have you seen all the new lamp stands along Ellesmere Road?

Road updates: there may be a few outstanding potholes that need repair, but all-in-all our village roads are pretty good compared with other villages.

Roundabouts: the talks are still on going about how best to upgrade the mini-roundabout near Stans, please bear with us as it does take time to get the best solution to these things.

Please can I mention our Tuesday Coffee and Chat in the Village Hall. It's a warm friendly space. I also believe the church will be opening up soon on Sunday afternoons, to do a similar thing and provide a warm space.

Its also lovely to see Armistice Day continue to grow and for people to remember the fallen from the village, many relatives of whom still live in the village.

Many of you get in touch; please carry on. I do my best to sort problems out working with the Councils but it all takes time. I'm often in the Village Hall, if you need a chat.

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Knowledge will bring you  
the opportunity to  
make a difference.

-Claire Fagin

# St Martins Parish Church

To book a Christening or Wedding and for any other enquiry please contact. Revd Stuart Jermy - [saintmartinjohns@icloud.com](mailto:saintmartinjohns@icloud.com); 778 468; mobile: 07766 255436

## Service times

- **Sundays: 9:30am** our usual Morning Worship Service, streamed on zoom.
- Goto our website for details. [www.stmartinsparish.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsparish.org.uk)

## 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** - 3:30pm in the Church Hall.



## Thanksgiving Remembrance service

**Saturday 3rd Dec 5pm**

A time to give thanks as we remember those loved ones no longer with us. During the service we will read out the names of those we are remembering, light a candle and praying that God's Light and love will be a comfort and strength to you and your family at this time. Do come along if you would find this helpful. Saturday 3rd Dec. 5pm.

## Follow the Star - Christmas at St Martins Parish Church

|                                          |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>11th Dec</b>               | <b>3:30-5pm</b> | <b>Sunday Afternoon Tea Christmas Special</b><br>A Seasonal social time at our monthly Sunday Social. All Welcome<br>Food provided by Stans (Thank you!) Transport available. Music/ games/ chat.                                |
| <b>Friday<br/>23rd Dec</b>               | <b>3:30pm</b>   | <b>Christingle and Carols round the Crib</b> Short service with candle Christingles given out <b>and a very special visitor!</b> Great for all the family. Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. Come in costume - and join in. |
| <b>Sunday<br/>18th Dec</b>               | <b>10.00am</b>  | <b>St. Martins Church Carol Service</b><br>Telling the Christmas story with Carols and drama and readings.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Christmas Eve -<br/>24th December</b> | <b>11.15pm</b>  | <b>Candlelit Christmas Eve Midnight Service</b><br>A candlelit Carol service with Communion . The best way to start Christmas day!                                                                                               |
| <b>Christmas Day<br/>25th</b>            | <b>9.30am</b>   | <b>Christmas Day Family Communion</b><br>A family service celebrating the birth of Christ. Short communion                                                                                                                       |



**A WARM PLACE OF WELCOME WITH AFTERNOON TEA**

**EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

**STARTING:** JAN 8TH 2023 AND EVERY SUNDAY UNTIL MARCH 26TH

**WHERE?:** THE CHAPTER HOUSE, ST MARTINS CHURCH

**FROM:** 3:30-5:30PM

**AFTERNOON TEAS:** DONATED AND PROVIDED BY STANS.

**WHO?:** ALL WELCOME.

**BOOK:** CALL US IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US.  
REV STUART OR LIZ : 01691 778 468

**NEED HELP WITH TRANSPORT? :** CALL US ON 01691 778468

**WHAT ELSE?:** PIANO, BOARD GAMES ( you're welcome to bring them with you) FRIENDLY FACES.

**CHRISTMAS: XMAS AFTERNOON TEA ON 11TH DECEMBER 2022 STARTING 3:15PM -SEE SEPARATE ADVERT)**

# **Sunday Social Club**

*(Supported by St. Martins Church)*



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

We continue to meet on the first Sunday of each month for our Sunday Afternoon Teas. Unfortunately, over the past few months we have lost one or two members due to their passing but we also have some new attendees.

Our next meeting will not however be on the first Sunday of December but instead the second, which is the 11<sup>th</sup> December. This is because it will be our Christmas Party and we felt the middle of the month more appropriate than the beginning. We have also arranged some entertainment.

Please do join us in St Martins Chapter House on the 11<sup>th</sup> December at 3:30pm.

If you do have any queries or require transportation please telephone Val Thompson on 01691 658756.

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## **NEWS**

### ***St Martins Community Speedwatch***

Oswestry SNT have successfully introduced another CSW group into their fold. PCSO Pete Roberts has been instrumental in setting up the team and took time out of his working day to attend the training event and to offer his support moving forward.

North Shropshire has by far got the highest number of CSW teams and SNT have demonstrated they are only too willing to offer their support when operationally possible.

Oswestry SNT are also exploring the possibility of further groups in the area, which will help to drive down speeds and make communities safer.

Keep up the good work Oswestry, well done all!

Mark Booth

CSW Coordinator





For any 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.

Email -

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

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



During a week of co-ordinated national action targeting county lines drug dealing, over 30 people have been arrested across the West Mercia area

'County Lines' is the name given to the process and operation of drugs transported from predominately larger urban areas to smaller towns, often in rural areas, with the 'line' referring to the mobile number used to order the drugs. The competition between rival gangs also sees innocent people caught up in the challenge for control of the drug dealing.

Last week (between 3 October and 9 October) officers from across West Mercia Police supported the National Crime Agency's County Lines Intensification Week, which saw 38 people arrested and a number of warrants carried out at residential properties.

Drugs with an estimated street value of more than £7,000 were seized during the week with a number of weapons such as knives, machetes, batons and vehicles seized, along with 36 mobile phones. More than £15,000 in cash was also recovered by officers during the week of intelligence led intensified activity.

County lines drug dealers often exploit children and young people, recruiting them to run drugs and cash between urban and county locations and to deal drugs on their behalf. Once recruited into county lines it can be difficult for those being exploited to leave, with fear and threats of violence used to keep them in place.

Anyone with suspicions that a property is being used to sell drugs, or that a young and vulnerable individual may be getting involved with county lines drug dealing can report this online under the Tell Us About section of our website [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk) or information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

More information for children and young people about county lines can be found by visiting Fearless [www.fearless.org/](http://www.fearless.org/) Fearless is a site where you can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. County Lines Intensification Week forms part of West Mercia Police's Protect campaign. Protect sees police work closely with partners to tackle serious and organised crime and the harm it causes. The broad-ranging campaign comprises four key areas of activity:

- Pursue - prosecuting and disrupting those involved in SOC
- Prevent - stopping individuals from becoming involved in SOC
- Protect - increased levels of protection against SOC
- Prepare - reducing the impact of SOC where it occurs



Find out more about our Protect work and follow #Protect on social media



# St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister for St Martins

Rev Julia Skitt - phone: 07810 360778

Deacon Carys Woodley: 01939 235504

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

|                   | Dec 4th            | Dec 11th               | Dec 18th          | Dec 25th                |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>St Martins</b> | 10:00 service      | Carol Service<br>11:00 | 10:00 Service     | No Service              |                     |
| <b>Moors</b>      | No service         | St Martins<br>11:00    | Carols<br>6:00pm  | No Service              |                     |
|                   | Jan 1st            | Jan 8th                | Jan 15th          | Jan 22nd                | Jan 29th            |
| <b>St Martins</b> | Moors<br>11:00     | Brown<br>11:00         | Oswestry<br>10:45 | Moors<br>11:00          | Watts<br>11:00      |
| <b>Moors</b>      | Edlington<br>11:00 | St Martins<br>11:00    | Oswestry<br>10:45 | Horsley<br>H C<br>11:00 | St Martins<br>11:00 |

# Community Carol Service

Led by Rev Ruth Shoreman

Carols, Crafts, Chat

**Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm**

Follow us on FB: StMartinsMethodistChurch

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STORE OPENING TIMES: MONDAY- SATURDAY 6:30AM-9PM

SUNDAY 8AM-8PM



# St Martins

# Christmas Tree



The lights on the community Christmas Tree will be switched on.

**Sunday 4th December 2022**

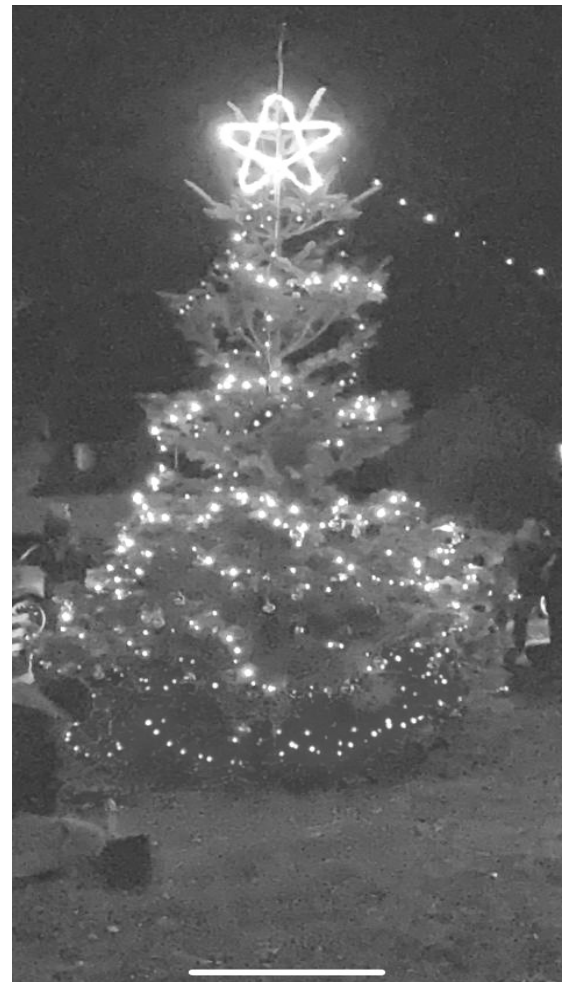
**at 6pm**

You are invited to attend and join in the event.

Each year Ash Allum has worked hard with a few friends to erect the tree and decorate it.

On behalf of the community I say a

**BIG THANK YOU to Ash.**



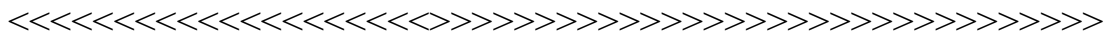
## ST MARTINS VILLAGE HALL CENTRE NEWS

Hello everyone.

Firstly, I have some sad news: Keith Palling has died.

He was a long-time volunteer at the hall and an absolute treasure to all that knew him. RIP Keith, you will be remembered by us all at the hall.

**We are honoured to have known you.**



### **ARE YOU A FORMER VOLUNTEER OR USER? DO YOU STILL HAVE A KEY?**

Please let us have the key back, as we have regular users needing a key.

We are changing the key safe number on January 1<sup>st</sup>, so make sure if you have a key you leave your name in the office to be notified of the new number.

Our book users will have noticed we have lots of new books to take out and enjoy, we also have new volunteers to sort the books which is a real help. We do still need volunteers, to stay a while so our book library can be open for more hours.

We have gardening volunteers, but still would love to have another weeder and tidier for the garden.

Lots of new ideas for the hall, and computer or tablet help is available every Tuesday, just pop in to see John or Paul.

It was good to see CPR and Defibrillator classes, and a big THANK-YOU to Effie who gives her time so readily.

A Warm Space is each Tuesday, Coffee and Chat, and tea cakes, toasties and soup, and you get to meet others. Please come and visit us on Tuesdays, from 10:00am.

Keep safe and warm, Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

GET READY FOR THE  
AUTUMN/WINTER  
PERIOD WITH  
**MORGANS  
MACHINERY**



**CHAINSAWS**

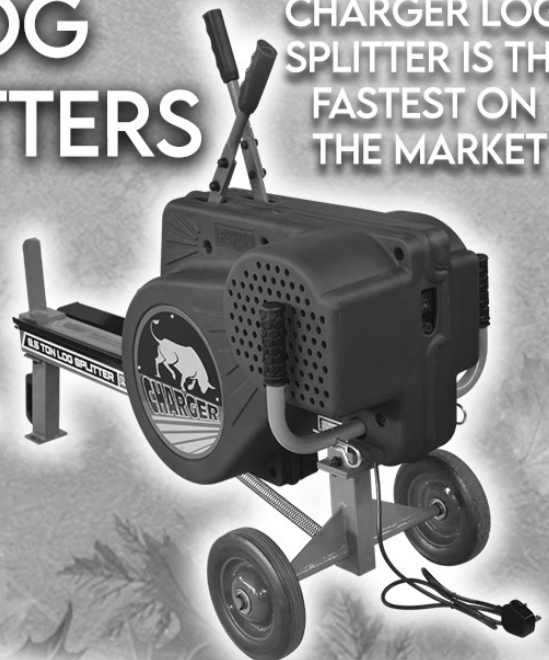


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## FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS

Autumn is now here and trees are looking lovely with colours changing before they drop their leaves and take a rest over the winter months, recharging for the coming Spring when they will again burst into life.

We have been busy over the last few months removing the birch saplings from the Skylark Mound. Without removing these rough saplings there would soon be nowhere for the Skylarks to nest. It is a never-ending job because once a birch reaches maturity it becomes a Mast tree which then sends out hundreds of seeds.

On the bright side we have also been surveying the various things to be found on site, which include the fungi - 28 species were found on the lower pathway last week. Unfortunately after working for two hours and taking both written descriptions and photographs to help with identification, when I put the disc from my camera into my laptop it told me that it was corrupt, so I lost all the pictures which means we must do it again. Not the best result for an afternoon's work but we did have good weather and a pleasant walk.

Looking on our 'Friends of Ifton Meadows' Facebook page I see many of you have also been recording the fungi; thank you for sharing your pictures. If you are interested in helping us with surveying, could you let us know the date and which part of the site you found the items you photographed.

Another site survey showed badger, fox, field mice and squirrels. We will continue surveying



with the help of 'The 3 Parish Big Local'. Surveying equipment is expensive, this grant allowed us to obtain the correct equipment for example quadrats of the right size and shape.

We shall continue to work taking out the birch saplings and if anyone would like to join us, we can be found on site on the second Sunday of each month (weather permitting).

  
**ST. MARTINS VILLAGE HALL**  
**THE ♥ OF THE COMMUNITY**  




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**Email: [arron.ellis-thomas@chirkroofingcentre.co.uk](mailto:arron.ellis-thomas@chirkroofingcentre.co.uk)**

**TEL: 01691 770713**  
**MOB: 07957 909106**

# Weston Rhyn Gardening Club

October has been meek and mild. November began appallingly wet.

The gardening season is still in full swing with an abundance of fruit such as apples and pears to harvest and store for the making of chutneys and pickles and such like. Preparing the garden for winter is also on the cards, not too tidy mind- remember the birds and the young shoots in spring.

Margaret Herbert the former head gardener at Lake Vyrnwy Hotel, Llanwddyn, Powys, saved the day on October 12th as the scheduled speaker was unavailable. Margaret has over 20 years' experience in horticulture and gave a presentation on gardening in the 21st Century. The presentation was predominantly focused on the effect of climate change in her own garden which is prone to flooding during the wet season. Many things have changed, but fundamentally the change in weather patterns and temperature is significant.

Since the 1800s, human activity has been the main driver in climate change. The 19th Century brought industrialization, the 20th Century brought Spanish flu, World Wars, nuclear power, space exploration and changing trends in agriculture. The 21st century has brought a pandemic. More natural disasters are evident such as droughts, increased temperatures, flooding, tsunamis and hurricanes and possibly positive advances in technology. Our creator created heaven (the ozone layer) and earth and we are hell bent on making holes in the roof, we are slow to learn. As gardeners we can be one step ahead and grow more of our own vegetables, reduce the carbon footprint by shopping locally and using produce that are in season.

Our speaker on December 14th is John Scrace who will speak about Bugs, Slugs, Spots and Rot. Pesticides and fertilisers will be mentioned for certain and alternative methods hopefully considered which are environmentally friendly.

We look forward to meeting up and listening to John's tips and advice.

Happy gardening.

Bethan Owen.





# Remembrance Sunday Parade

Sunday 13th of November at 11am our community observed a minute silence to remember the fallen in the worlds conflicts, not only those who fell in the 2 World Wars but those in many other conflicts since. Glen Pennington (former soldier) read the names of those from the World Wars, Terry Ellis spoke the words of Exhortation (They shall not grow old....) , Mr John Thomas (former Royal Navy) laid the wreath on behalf of the community and Julie Garrett played the Last Post and Reveille. The Rev Stuart Jermy led the whole proceeds.

The Scouts and Guides marching in with their standards flying high and once positioned in an arc around the War Memorial the rest of the community congregated around them. Cllr Helen Williams (Parish Council Chair) opened with a welcome, followed by The St Martins School Choir singing their lovely song of Remembrance, 'We Will Remember'.

After the service the Scouts and Guides led the way to St Martins Parish Church again with their standards flying for all to see. The Rev. Stuart Jermy led the praise, worship and time reflection about conflict.

Well Done to all who took part, you play your part well as did all the soldier, sailors and airmen in their time.



# st.martins pharmacy

Stans Superstore, St. Martins, Oswestry. SY11 3AY Tel: 01691 778873

Open: Monday - Friday 9am till 5.30pm, Saturday 9am till 11.30am

St Martins Pharmacy is a family-run business that prides itself on providing a first-class healthcare service to the local community.

Why not pop in & have a chat about signing up to us 

All prescriptions are dispensed in-house & ready to collect within 24 hours of receipt from your surgery.

(Please note - Surgeries require at least 2-3 working days to process your prescription request)

  
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