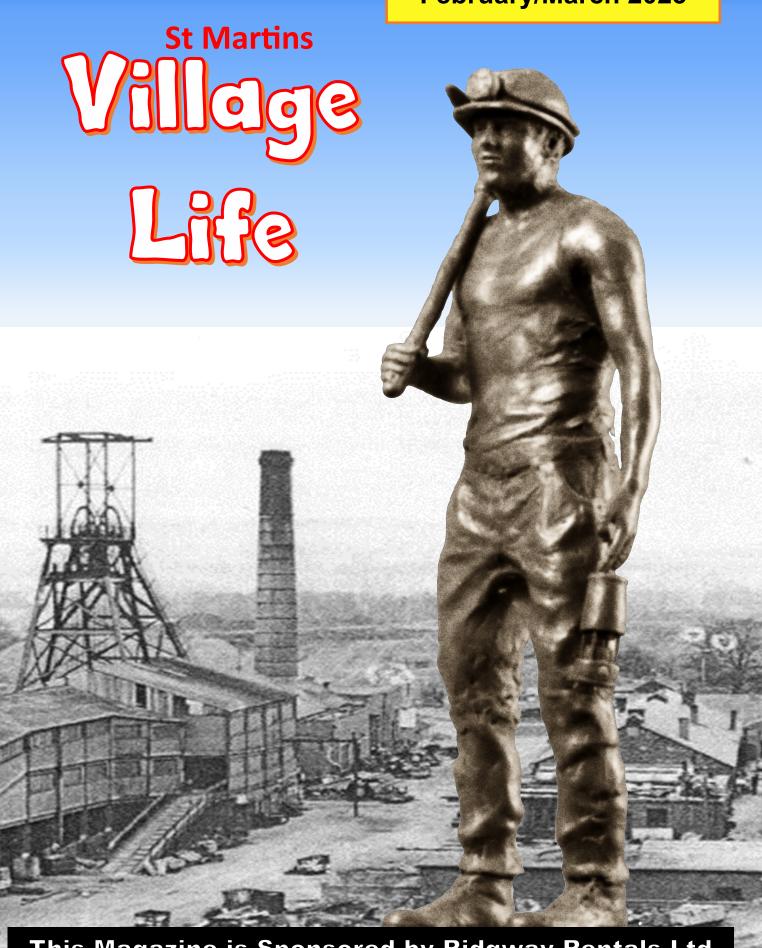
February/March 2023



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) Monday 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 <u>2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com</u>

St Martins Village Life—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

Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

Hello everyone,

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome to the first edition of 2023. I do hope you all had a very Happy Christmas with lots of cheer and people to share it with.

I have not been to a Midnight Mass/Christmas Eve Candled Light service for some years but this year there was nothing stopping me. Candles lit, carols sung, friends greeted (some I have not seen for some time), what a precious time and a great way to start Christmas. In times gone by I remember the church being packed out and the sound of carols filling the space up to the rafters with the joy of a community coming to together to praise God for his great gift. I am a bit sad to say the church was a bit over half full and I felt that from a community that is growing so much, where was the other half! May be next year there will be many more of our community finding their way to church.

Well what does the New Year hold for you? Is there a new member of the family due? Are you moving house? Planning on buying a new car, going to college or maybe you have a new year's resolution to lose some weight, visit family more, get fit, whatever is on the cards for you, I wish you well in all of it.

As for the Village Life, well we have not heard of any increase in printing cost as yet although I think we will need to increase the amount of magazines printed, which obviously will put up our costs. So I appeal to you all to make a resolution to put a regular amount in the collection box at Stan's. All offers of financial support are very gratefully received and does make a difference as to whether or not we are able to keep going. Many of the community magazines in local areas have gone completely or have moved to being totally internet based. I don't want to go down that route as many older people don't have internet and don't want to have anything to do with computers, to have paper in your hands is a lot more gratifying for them.



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 15th March 2023

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

There is a large print version available on request for people with sight impairment. Please email us.

Parish Council

FROM THE CHAIR

Happy and Healthy New Year to you all.

Lots of lovely daffodils poking their heads out of the cold ground, so encouraging to see them, Snowdrops are also peeking out in this wet and windy weather. We are getting longer hours of daylight, and can start to look forward to warmer times. I know we often get some of the worst weather in February and March, but March winds bring April showers. And we start to get warmer weather.

Spare a thought to your neighbours; are they OK? Can they get out? Do they sometimes need an offer of help to bring home the heavier items of shopping?

I hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year, but I do know lots have had the flu, and it does take time to get over it. "Keep warm, watered and rested," was always my Grannie's advice.

We have found out a lot of information for a voluntary car scheme, which we hope to get up and running this year, but as there are lots of safety aspects to setting it up, we are going one step at a time. We will let you all know in this magazine how we progress.

We still have complaints about dog fouling on the paths; remember it is the dog walker's responsibility to pick it up and bin it. There are lots of bins, so nobody has any excuse not to clean up after their dog.

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 a problem. We are all volunteers, and are here to support the village.

Kind Regards Helen Williams



The better weather is coming

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

This is a brief report this month, as during the Christmas and New Year period very few offices or businesses are open.

However, on a positive note Highline Electrical have now fitted larger Solar Panels and higher capacity batteries to the four Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) on the four main approach roads to the village of St Martins. These SIDs can also record data which can be passed on to the police to enable them to carry out speed checks at times of the day when most vehicles exceed the speed limit.

In addition, Shropshire Council Street Lighting Department have confirmed that orders have been placed with Scottish Power to carry out column/cable replacement works to all the lights Shropshire Council own and maintain along Ellesmere Road. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2023.

As regards Overton Road it has been established that new cables are required all along this road from the roundabout by Stans Superstore to The Keys PH. At the time of writing this report Shropshire Council's Street lighting Department are carrying out an assessment of this area before issuing a further order to Scottish Power.

The majority of issues raised at the January meeting of the Parish Council related to Highway Issues.

The main area of concern relates to the safety issues either side of Escob Bridge. Following recent repairs to the road at Escob Bridge the installation of three roadside bollards has now further reduced the width of the approach road to this bridge from the St Martins direction creating more chances of further incidents at this bridge. The key matters concerning Escob Bridge is that its aged construction is insufficient to match the current needs of vehicle usage (i.e. without modification it is dangerous) due to continuing heavy loads, for example regular daily use by Plant Machinery and Articulated Timber Wagons plus the sheer number of vehicles requiring constant access to Shropshire's largest and continually growing village, as well as the new and expanding Bank Top Industrial Estate. It therefore makes the case for either Traffic Lights or even, at the furthest extreme, the construction of a new bridge. We feel certain that the cost of traffic lights compared to the cost of a new bridge would focus the minds of Shropshire Council towards supporting the lesser of the two cost options. Discussions are to be held with Shropshire Council's Traffic and Bridges Teams.

Discussions are also taking place with Shropshire Council on installing more visible 30 mph speed repeater signs in St Martins along with Dog Fouling signs following reports of an increase of dog fouling in many areas, especially on pavements.

Edward Davies, St Martins Parish Clerk

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

Dear all.

Happy new year.

I hope you keep well during the cold of the winter months; we do keep promoting our coffee, cake, and chat on Tuesdays in the village hall - all age Groups are welcome, warm, and it's free.

Also please remember there's a coffee morning at the chapel on Ellesmere road on Thursday mornings - everyone welcome.

I'm sure everyone saw the pot hole on Escob bridge over Christmas, unfortunately it took some time to have it repaired because of the holidays, but ok now, and both myself and the Parish Council are pressing on with Escob bridge Traffic lights as it becomes increasingly more dangerous, in my opinion.

We are all aware of the lights not working in the village and worse, including Dudleston I have over 50 out in my ward. Ellesmere Road will start any day now putting new LED lights on the new poles, Overton road will also soon start, the problem on Overton road is the underground cabling runs along the whole length of the village, also the heads need all to be LED.

I'm in the Village hall on a regular basis so please let me know if you need a chat.

A big thank you to Ash Allum for doing the Christmas Tree again in the memorial garden especially as it was vandalised and he had to do it again. **Thank You** Ash.

Steve

Do you have a business or service you want to advertise?

You could do it here for just £11 per single issue or pay just £55 for a full year of six issues (Yes, one issue free).

email stmartinsvilagelife@gmail.com
for an application form

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St Martins Church Bell Tower Report 2022

2022 has been a fairly busy year in the Tower despite the lack of a local ringing band.

We have had several quarter peals throughout the year, and 2 full peals rung in March and June which were dedicated to Her Majesty the Queen. The first was to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee year and the second peal was rung on the 1st of June to

mark the start of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in the village.

In September we were dealing with the sad loss of our longest-standing monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A shock wave was sent, not just across our nation, but that of the whole world.

The Tenor bell was tolled for an hour to mark her sad passing. The bells were rung half muffled for the thanksgiving service on the following Sunday. And the Tenor bell was once again tolled for an hour before the Queen's funeral.

We have put out a couple of appeals for new bell ringers this year, but only one person has attended the bell handling class on a Tuesday evening 7-8.30pm. In just a few lessons he has learnt the great skill of ringing Church bells. Which are some of the oldest and largest musical instruments in the world.

In the meantime I would like to thank the help St Martin's receives from our neighbouring towers.



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TEL: 01691 770713 MOB: 07957 909106



ST. MARTINS PARISH CHURCH

Service times

- Sundays: 9:30am Morning Worship Service, also streamed on zoom.
- Goto our website for detailswww.stmartinspansh.org.uk

Weekly Events

- Mondays 1pm-2:30 Little Saints Baby & Toddler Group
- Tuesdays Bible study groups and Alpha course evenings.
- Wednesdays Morning Prayer/ Communion 9:30am;

Coffee Morning 10:30-11:30am

Craft Group 2pm - 3.30pm Wednesdays.

- Fridays -The Walking Group 10am meets in the church car park
 Youth Group school years 5-7 and year 9 11 for info please ask.
- · Sundays Afternoon Teas Provided by Stans 3:30-5.30pm in the

A WARM PLACE OF WELCOME EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

AFTERNOON TEA

WHEN 7: from January 8th 2023-every Sunday until March 26th 2023

STARTING 3:30pm-5:30pm

WHERE?: THE CHAPTER HOUSE, ST MARTINS CHURCH

AFTERNOON TEAS; donated and provided by STANS.

WHO?: ALL WELCOME.

TO BOOK: call us if you'd like to join us.

Rev Stuart or Liz on 01691 778 468; Val Thompson on 658756

NEED HELP WITH TRANSPORT?: call us on 01691 778468

WHAT ELSE?: friendly faces, bring your friends and family. Board games and a piano.

FREE TO ALL

Check out our website:

Monthly "Praise Rave" - a time of Praise and Worship.

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

To book a Christening or Wedding and for any other enquiry please contact.

Revd Stuart Jermy saintmartinjohns@icloud.com; 778 468; mobile: 07766 255436

Church Hall (Chapter House)
available to hire for functions



A WARM PLACE OF WELCOME EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

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WHEN ?: from January 8th 2023-every Sunday until March 26th 2023

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778468

WHAT ELSE?: friendly faces. bring your friends and

family. Board games and a piano.

FREE TO ALL

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 be the first Sunday of February the 5th. Please do join us in St Martins Chapter House on the 5th of February at 3:30pm.

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



St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister for St Martins

Rev Julia Skitt - phone: 07810 360778

Deacon Carys Woodley:01939 235504

SUNDAY WORSHIP

	Feb 5 th	Feb 12th	Feb 19th	Feb 26th
	Moors	10.00	11.00 Rev J Skitt	Moors
St Martins	11.00		Holy Communion	11.00
	M Bennett	11.00	St Martins	M Jackson
Moors	11.00		11.00	11.00

Mothering Sunday

Rev Ruth Shoreman

Sunday March 19th











COFFEE MORNING

Join us for coffee, biscuits, chat & warm space February 9th 23rd March 9th 23rd 10.30-11.30

Follow us on FB:StMartinsMethodistChurch

& St Martins Chatter.

Calling all Drivers!

Are you sitting at home wondering what you can do to help your community?

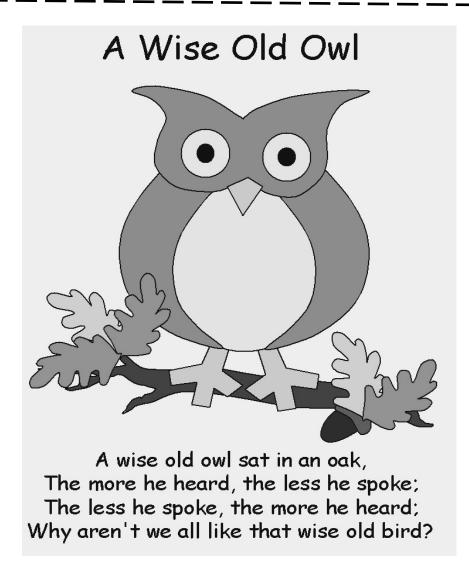
Do you have a car that sits on the drive all day?

Can you answer the telephone and organise a lift to local GP surgeries or maybe a hospital appointment?

Viv Fisher is wanting help to have a Community Car/Voluntary Car Service. If this is something you think you might like to help with PLEASE come along to the Village Hall Centre on

Thursday 16th Feb at 6.30pm and hear more. There are details to be conveyed such as how much do you get paid? How long do you have to wait? And lots of other interesting stuff.





ST MARTINS VILLAGE HALL CENTRE NEWS

Hello everyone.

St Martins Village Hall has had so much support over the last year from people and businesses in and around the village, Thank you to you all, especially Stans who support the whole community in many different ways. We are very fortunate to live in a village with so many services.

Our current challenge is to start a voluntary car scheme to help those unable to get to the doctors or hospitals. Viv Fisher is getting help in setting up such a scheme, we will need volunteers.

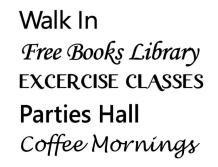
Improvements to the village hall are being progressed, alterations to the front porch, and heating improvements.

There is computer, laptop or tablet help available every Tuesday, just pop in to see John or Paul between 10am and 2pm.

A Warm Space is provided 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 10am

Keep safe and warm





Meeting Room
Spinning classes
Carboot sales
Free IT
(computer) help

TEL: 01691 770204 (Please leave a message) Email: stmartinscentre@mail.com SY11 3AY

Monetary donations always gratefully recieved for improvements

ST. MARTINS SERVICE STATION Itd

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SUNDAY 8AM—8PM



BLOOD

January 19th 2023

Ilam - 2pm

58 Beatrice Street, Oswestry, SY11 1QW

The Community Well Being Outreach Team at the Oswestry & Borders Food Bank





MENTAL HEALTH & WELL BEING

Free help and support for you

NEW WALK-IN LISTENING SERVICE

OPEN TO EVERYONE!

WHERE?

58 Beatrice Street

WHEN?

Every Thursday 11am-2pm

WHO FOR?

Every Monday Morning

Starting Monday 9th January 2023

58 Beatrice Street, Oswestry,

10.30am - 12.30pm

SAMARITANS AT FOOGIDANK

Anyone who would like to speak confidentially with a mental health practitioner

HOW?

Free Walk in service or appointments available.

Call **0300 102 0110** or just turn up





Oswestry & Borders Foodbank

Call free, any time, any phone on 116123

North Stropshire Midlands Partnership 100d bank NSFoundation Text

Your local NHS GP surgeries can also make appointments:

Cambrian Surgery - 01691 652929 | The Caxton surgery - 01691 654646 Plas Ffynnon Medical Centre - 01691 655844 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

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



NEIGHBOURHOOD MAT

IT'S a SCAM

West Mercia Police have seen a recent increase in reports of fraudsters operating in Shropshire, claiming to be from various police services around the country.

The crime, known as 'Courier Fraud' has seen the elderly and the vulnerable targeted in Ross on Wye, Shifnal, Meole Village in Shrewsbury and Wellington and we would urge everyone to pass on the information about bogus callers to relatives, friends and neighbours who may be at risk to such scams. While these locations have been targeted it is likely others areas have as well and may be in the future, so please remain vigilant wherever you live.

The recent trend is for the criminal to telephone a home and say they are a police officer from a UK police force or from New Scotland Yard, for example, and that the victim's account has been compromised. The victim is then instructed to visit their bank and withdraw thousands of pounds in cash which they claim the notes are forgeries and to deliver them to a courier using an agreed password.

There are variations of this scam and Superintendent Ed Hancox suggests a straightforward solution "Hang up the telephone. The simple fact and the only thing to remember is that no police officer, legitimate bank/building society or business will ever phone you to ask you to give them your bank details, your PIN, or hand over your cash in the way we've described above.

"While it is difficult to tell how genuine these calls are, they are all, without exception, people pretending to be police officers.

"Don't trust anyone who calls you about your bank details. If you want to check they are legitimate, find their number via directory enquiries or use the number on the back of your bank card and call them back.



FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS

Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope that 2023 brings a more stable year – 2022's weather confused not only us but the flowers and trees, which did not bloom at the normal time. With this in mind can I ask you to stay off the Skylark mound; it is only the beginning of January and the Skylarks were seen on Sunday looking for places to nest, 2 months earlier than normal.



2022 went out wet after a short spell of very cold (normal winter) weather. The friends continued to cut back the birch on the Skylark mound in November and December, but unfortunately I was not able to help. I sprained my knee in October and so climbing about on the mount was not on the cards. Winter is a quiet time for nature, but we do have the pleasure of a large variety of fungi. A recent survey on site showed 137 different types of fungi recorded by a specialist that come on site on 30th October 2022.

We have recorded our own survey and 21 species of fungi were found on the lower pathway one Sunday afternoon. So, keep an eye open when you are walking around fungi come in all shapes, sizes, and colours. Many will recognise the distinct red fly agaric but if you look carefully, you will see many more - some bright colours blues, yellows and various shades of brown. Sizes vary from large puff balls to spindly Mycena. An easy one to identify is Turkey tail this is a bracket fungus which grows on trees. You will find fungi on site throughout the year but the main crop is in the Autumn and Winter.

By the time you read this we should be into early spring with flowers such as Snowdrops and celandine.





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)







February 2023 Quiz **Questions**

- 1. Caroline Dubois is a professional what?
- 2. Hollie Pearne-Webb is the captain of which GB team?
- Who won the Golden Boot Award in the 2022 Football World Cup? 3.
- 4. Rehan Ahmed is the youngest ever player to represent England at which sport?
- What was Sir Henry Coopers profession before took up boxing? 5.
- 6. Who won the Sid Waddell Darts Trophy in 2022?
- 7. If a cricket umpire puts his finger tips of his right hand on to his right shoulder what is he signalling?
- How many Test Matches did England win in Pakistan in 2022? 8.
- 9. Which country has won TWO World Cups in the same year?
- 10. A Hat Trick as only been scored twice in a World Football Cup final name the years and the scorers.



Cost of living help

This information has been brought together by Shropshire Council with its partners to support our residents at this challenging and worrying time.

Many people in Shropshire are worried about rising costs. There are three key things we want everyone to know:

- If you or someone you know is worried about money or is struggling right now, you're not alone
- There may be simple steps you can take to cut costs or maximise your income
- If you're getting into debt or your mental health is suffering, don't wait to get help

For more help search 'Shropshire Council Warm Hubs'

St Martins Parish Church—Chapter house Sundays 3:00pm -5:00pm

St Martins Village Hall Centre Tuesday 10:00am—12noon



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The Milkmaid and her Pail

Patty the Milkmaid was going to market carrying her milk in a pail on her head.

As she went along, she began calculating what she would do with the money she would get for the milk. I'll buy some fowls from Farmer



Brown," said she, "and they will lay eggs each morning, which I will sell to the parson's wife..



With the money that I get from the sale of these eggs, I'll buy myself a new dimity frock and a chip hat; and when I go to market, won't all the young men come up and speak to me!

Polly Shaw will be so

jealous; but I don't care. I shall just look at her and toss my head like this." As she spoke that, she tossed her head back and the pail fell off it, and all the milk was spilt!

MORAL: DO NOT COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY ARE HATCHED.



ST MARTINS COMMUNITY POND & ORCHARD

(ARTHANS POND)

Well, we got the rain we wanted so we can think about the future, completing the work and reforming the angling club. Weather permitting, there will be a Saturday Open Day in March for anyone interested in the future of the pond.

Watch out for updates on Facebook:

'St Martins Village Centre'

'St Martins Chatter'



A ROBERTS



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- 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



What's on in February 2023!

Tues 7th	WI Jan Hedges with Little Cards	St Martins Miners Institute Lounge	7:30pm
Wed 8th	Weston Rhyn & District Gardening Club Permaculture by Ian Steele of Treflach Farm	Weston Rhyn Institute	7:15pm
Wed 8th	Hearing Loss Support Hubs Usually 1 st Wednesday of every month	Oswestry Library	Booking required 01743 342168
Thurs 9th	St Martins Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm
Wed 15th	Singing for Memories	Oswestry Library	11:00am-12noon
Thurs 16th	St Martins Volunteer Car Service	St Martins Centre	6:30pm
Thurs 23rd	Carer's Support Drop in	Oswestry Library	10:30am-12:30pm