August/September 2023



This Magazine is Sponsored by Ridgway Rentals Ltd

Clubs and Groups

Bell Ringing

Parish Church TowerTues 7:00 - 8:30pmSun Service 9:00 - 9:30amContact: Tower Captain Dai Cartwright01691 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

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

Welcome to the August /September Village Life. I do hope you are all well and enjoying the sunshine and not getting overheated. Please be caring about your elderly neighbours and check in on them or invite them round for a drink, I am told that the weather will turn very hot again. Let's end our summer with as many people as we started with.

Did you notice how tall the grass verges were? The Parish Council did enquire as to what had happened that they were allowed to get that bad. Yes, it has been cut now and all the cuttings left on top to rot. Does this make our village look cared for? Not in my personal opinion. So I'm putting out a call to all able grass mowers to include a grass verge adjacent to your property to just pop the other side of your hedge/fence and cut what you can and try to keep it tidy. I'm sure many people will note what has been done as I do when I'm walking the dog or even sometimes it is noted when I'm driving down the village. Can we all take an active part in keeping our village looking tip -top. And when you have done all that, how about writing to us and telling the community about it?



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If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication please email your submission to <u>stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com</u> by no later than Wednesday 13th September 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 <u>www.stmartins-online.org.uk/villagelife</u>

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

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

Parish Council

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello,

I hope you are enjoying the summer season so far?

From droughts leaving our water butts empty and heatwaves making it difficult to sleep to flash floods making roads impassable, the effects of extreme weather on St Martins individuals, let alone communities, industries and countries caused by human-induced climate change continue to become more frequent and severe. We all need to adapt our lifestyles and mitigate further effects by switching from fossil fuels to clean renewables now. I handed Helen Morgan MP a climate action plan when she visited St Martins Centre on 7th July.

It was good to see a packed room hear North Shropshire's MP, Helen Morgan, reply to issues put to her by local residents. Topics included pedestrian safety walking to school and in the dark, vehicle speeding, and lack of medical infrastructure. These issues had also been raised by St Martins Parish Council.

Accessibility to the countryside is vital for individual well-being, environmental awareness, cultural appreciation, economic growth, and social inclusion. It allows people to engage with nature, promotes physical and mental health, and nurtures a deeper understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

However, many footpaths within St Martins Parish are either missing, impassable or deliberately blocked due to neglect, lack of maintenance and attempts by the landowners to close the rights of way.

Parish Paths Partnerships are groups of volunteers who come together to do whatever they decide needs to be done at the local level. Activities include Rights of Way surveys, maintenance of Rights of Way, replacing stiles, gates and bridges, cutting back vegetation, waymarking routes, promoting the best local walks and rides, organising local walking festivals and deciding on their local Rights of Way priorities.

If you'd like to get involved with a new St Martins Parish Paths Partnership, please call Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships on

01743 255957 or email

helen.beresford@shropshire.gov.uk

Shropshire Council will provide all the training, materials and tools, you will be covered by insurance and you could start making a real difference to our Parish's Rights of Way network straight away.

The Big Butterfly Count is a UK-wide survey running until 6th August aimed at helping assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) we see in 15 minutes then uploading results to <u>https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/</u>

Kind regards, Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier

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 majority of the July meeting focussed on Shropshire Council's Place Plan review. Place plans are documents which focus on local infrastructure needs in communities across the county. Infrastructure includes utilities such as electricity, gas, and water, as well as other things such as roads, schools, open spaces, flood defences, broadband, health facilities, leisure facilities, and more.

Rosie Corner and Lucy Roberts, Shropshire Council's Place Plan Officers from the Oswestry and Ellesmere Area, explained which projects that the Parish Council had put forward could be considered for the St Martins area. They itemised what further information would be required to assist officers at Shropshire Council when considering infrastructure and investment needs. These included:

Escob Bridge – highway safety including the need for traffic lights on this narrow bridge and a possible weight restriction.

General Traffic Calming – speeding traffic through the village is only partly addressed by the four Speed Indicator Devices and speed watch sessions.

Kimberly Lane – single track road used as a cut-through between Overton Road and Ellesmere Road despite clear signage saying, 'For Access Only'.

Recreation Ground behind St Martins School – lack of open spaces within the confines of the village.

Expansion of St Martins School – the primary side of the school is well over subscribed, and the secondary side is almost at its limits.

Medical Care in the Village – last year the satellite surgery from Chirk GPs was closed and will not reopen.

Greener Community – all responsible councils need to work towards a Zero Carbon community.

Further work will be undertaken by the Parish Council in the coming months.

Following a site visit with a highways technician from Shropshire Council, new street name plates have been ordered for Mount Bradford Lane, Kimberley Lane, and Moors Bank. A dual-purpose litter bin in Colliery Road will be repaired and re-sited next to the Sub Station at the junction to Overton Road. The Speed Indicator Device on Moors Bank will be moved further towards the junction as in its present location the solar panel is badly shaded by the adjacent tree.

On planning, the Parish Council strongly objected to the following applications:

Land South Of Firs Close, St Martins, Shropshire. Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the installation of 125 solar panels and associated works, landscaping, and planting. Parish Councils reasons for objection, the application for the pods was still awaiting a result of a legal objection.

Proposed Dwelling to the West of The Firs, Firs Close, St Martins, Shropshire New dwelling and ancillary works

Parish Councils reasons for objection, from examination of the detailed final plans, it is obvious that the building is NOT designed as a Residential Family Home. It consists of 4 en-suite bedrooms (effectively 'self-contained'), with one lounge and kitchen, but WITHOUT:-Any Utility room to enable laundry facilities.

Any Storage space or similar facility.

Any Family Bathroom.

Any Cloakroom with washroom facility (if there was a visitor of a family home, you would not expect them to have to use the toilet facilities in a private bedroom). These above 4 features would be a prerequisite to a residential family home.

There is no meeting in August. The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Thursday 14th September 2023 in St Martins Village Hall starting at 7:00 pm.

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

Hello everyone,

Summer is upon us, and the grass is getting longer. Yes its been challenging getting Shropshire Council to get things done, but we have an excellent chap who works for Shropshire Council and lives in the village working on our behalf to get things moving.

Just to update you on things that I have been involved with in the village:

We are still working on lights on Escob bridge, but I don't have a timeline as yet.

Most of our roads in and out of the village are being resurfaced, relined; more being done here than elsewhere.

I have been given an assurance that the Street lights on Overton Road will be started soon; not fixed, replaced.

The design for the new roundabout near Stan's Superstore should be with us soon.

The parking at the school and a crossing to the bus shelter is a priority.

It was good that many people came to see our MP as she took the time to visit the village, I have asked her for as much support as possible.

With persuading the NHS we need a better doctor's surgery provision, as meetings are taking place between Ellesmere and SC myself exploring possibilities because as time moves on, I'm hearing it's getting worse in Chirk.

As the village hall gets busier we are looking for new volunteers, perhaps any new people in the village might like to get involved? It's a good way of getting to know old and new alike.

We are looking for a price to do work on the entrance porch, so if you're interested please come and give us a quote.

Our Tuesday coffee and chat still very busy and free, but we are taking a break during August.

Once again, I have to thank the band of excellent volunteers who make it possible. Young and old or those in the middle are all welcome.



St. Martins Parish Church



Service times

Sundays: 9:30am Morning Worship Service, also streamed on zoom. Go to our website for details <u>www.stmartinsparish.org.uk</u>

Weekly Events

Mondays -1:00 -2:30pm Little Saints Baby & Toddler Group Tuesdays - Bible study groups and Alpha course evenings Bell ringing practice - new ringers welcome Wednesdays - Morning Prayer/ Communion 9:30am Coffee Morning 10:30-11:30am Craft Group 2:00 - 3.30pm Wednesdays. Fridays - The Walking Group 10:00 am meets in the church car park

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

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



Check out our website: www.stmartinsparish.org.uk



St Martins Family Messy CHURCH



Sunday Social Club



Supported by St. Martins Church

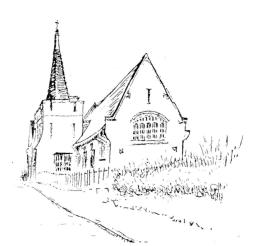
Are you at a loss to know what to do on a Sunday Afternoon?

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 August - the 6th. Please do join us in St Martins Chapter House 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

AUGUST	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
St Martins	Moors	M Bennett	Moors	St Martins
	11.00	11.00	11.00	10.00
Moors	Nankivell	St Martins	H Watts	Moors
	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00



COFFEE MORNINGS

Join us for coffee, biscuits & chat.

August 10th, 24th, September 7th, 21st.

Harvest Celebrations:

Moors Methodist Church – Sunday 17th September.

St Martins Methodist Church

Service 11:00 - Sunday 24th September

Harvest Supper – Monday 25th September

Family Service/Messy Church – Sunday 8th October 2pm

Follow us on FB:StMartinsMethodistChurch

<u>& St Martins Chatter.</u>

2nd St Martins Scout Group



Are you aged between 8 and 10 and enjoy having fun? If so, the cubs at St Martins would really like you to join them next term on a Thursday night at the scout hut. They have been having a brilliant time this term, but some activities are just better with a few more young people taking part.

Since half term, our cubs have been out and about a lot. They've been out tracking in the woods around Colemere, paddling canoes on the River Severn, and sailing up at Gresford. They have also been working towards a number of badges, including their local knowledge badge for which they created posters about the great place they live.



Scouts have also been out and about, joining cubs for sailing but also having their own adventures including climbing, canoeing, crate stacking and rafting which is a very wet and fun activity and a great way to put all their pioneering skills to the test.

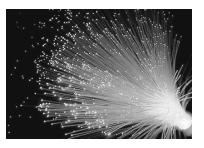
Both groups will be going on camp at the end of July, with the scouts going for 5 days and including some wild camping, and the cubs for 2 days.

Sounds fun? I think so! Why not come and see for yourself next term? Term times at the scout hut from 6-7:15pm (cubs) and 7:30 – 9:00pm (scouts) on Thursdays. For more info, please contact Dave Cripps on <u>2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com</u>



Major Broadband Upgrade

Freedom Fibre wins government-funded Project Gigabit contract to roll out lightning-fast connectivity to around 12,000 homes and businesses in Shropshire.



Thousands of homes and businesses in Shropshire will benefit from high-speed full-fibre broadband after a £24 million government contract was awarded to Freedom Fibre.

This new three-year contract is part of the UK government's £5 billion Project Gigabit, which aims to provide lightning-fast gigabit-capable broadband to hard-to-reach communities across the UK.

Freedom Fibre's network will be rolled out in many communities across North Shropshire that will transform broadband speeds and reliability for local residents and businesses.

Freedom Fibre is expected to start network construction in February 2024, with the first properties potentially being able to connect to lightning-fast broadband as early as October 2024.

The award supports the government's priority to grow the economy, creating better-paid jobs and opportunity across the country.

Freedom Fibre will invest thousands of pounds in a broad range of socio-economic and environmental projects across North Shropshire including running its 'Freedom Fund' that offers funding for good and green community-led projects within its build areas.

Freedom Fibre CEO Neil McArthur said:

"We are delighted to be selected to deliver the latest full-fibre broadband technology as part of the North Shropshire Gigabit project. Freedom Fibre is already delivering these services to rural homes and businesses across North West Shropshire and is pleased to be expanding our services to 12,038 homes and businesses in North Shropshire.

"The project forms part of the government's initiative to ensure a UK-wide rollout of full-fibre to replace ageing copper networks. Investing £24m in the latest fibre technology, the project will end over 100 years of copper-based services and enable the delivery of high-speed full-fibre to the UK.

"Freedom Fibre is a network builder and will be working with several internet service providers and the local authorities over the next few years. Wherever possible we will be using existing underground ducts and overhead poles to minimise disruption."

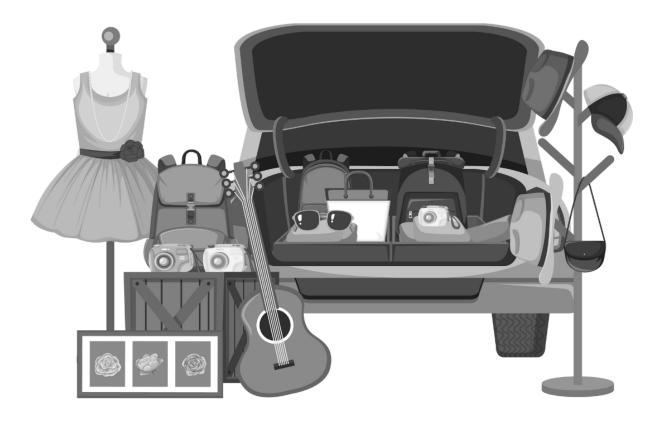
Councillor Robert Macey, Shropshire Council cabinet member with responsibility for Culture and Digital, said:

"This £24m investment is great news for communities and businesses in Shropshire as gigabit-capable broadband further enhances our ability to be a digital county. Improved digital infrastructure remains a top priority for Shropshire Council given its significant economic and social benefits and we look forward to seeing Freedom Fibre progress this exciting infrastructure project. In addition, Freedom Fibre has committed to deliver significant Social Value through the contract; examples include upskilling and employing local people, tree planting schemes, and a £25,000 Freedom Fund for local community projects."

Premises set to be reached by the contract are subject to change following detailed planning by the supplier or due to technical reasons during the lifetime of the contract. The area outlined in a map on website below is intended as a guide to show the scope of this project and network availability may vary in some areas upon completion.

St Martins Village Hall

Car Boot Sale



Saturdays: August 19th

September 2nd

9am - 1pm (set up from 8am)

£5 per boot

To book pop into the Village Hall or call 01691 770204 and leave a message

THE LOST PEN!!

My Granddad's in a terrible stew,

He can't find his pen.

I'll tell you where it is I cried,

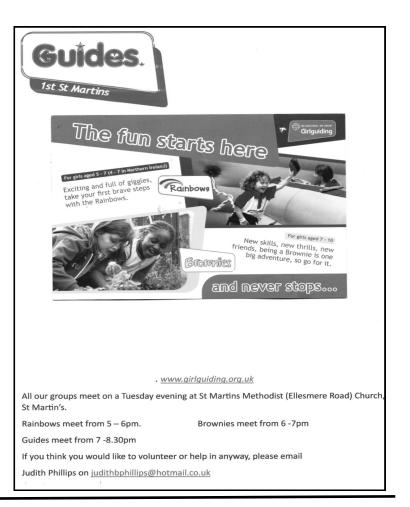
before you count to ten,

You'll not do that I fear,

Oh, Yes, I will I cried (cos grandpapa),

it's just behind your ear.

















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ME

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Here to help. 07931760879

Line open 9am – 5pm 7 days a week.

<<<<>>>>>

Please ring for more information if you would like to volunteer to be a driver.

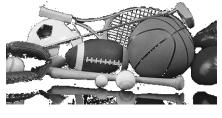
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No distance too small

If you want to go to a coffee morning, chiropodist, dentist, see someone in a care home...ring and see how we can help

Which Club(s) Did the Following England Players Represent?

- 1. Bobby Moore
- 2. Sam Quek
- 3. Alan Ball
- 4. Phil Tufnell



Answers page 39

- 5. Richard Leman
- 6. Ian Botham
- 7. Alan Ball
- 8. Dennis Compton
- 9. Jonny Wilkinson
- 10.Jim Laker

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6



Child Road Safety

It has been brought to our attention that there are children on bikes in the morning in the Gobowen area that aren't wearing helmets and weaving all over the road. We have spoken to the school and I am going to go and do a talk, but in the meantime, please watch out for children whilst driving in the Gobowen area and if you have school age children that attend St. Martins School please make sure they have a helmet and talk to them about safety on the roads.



Message Sent By Katie Le'Clere (West Mercia Police, PC, Oswestry Rural North)



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



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



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June was a very hot month which I am sure many of you enjoyed. The Friends however found the heat too much to work in, so we decided to do more surveying on site. For May and June, we worked in the shade of the Dingle.

In the Dingle the tree canopy was closing in above our heads, making it darker, warmer, moister, and taking the harsh sun off the ground, the spring and early summer species have gone over now, such as the Wild Garlic and Bluebells, but we will still see the

delicate flower spikes of the Enchanters, Nightshade, Honeysuckle, woodsedge

and Woodsage. The ferns will also be enjoying this shady environment, looking like healthy green badminton shuttlecocks, ferns such as the Lady Fern, Broad Buckler and Male Fern.

A recent butterfly survey has seen the emergence of the Meadow Brown and Ringlet Butterflies in good numbers, also now appearing in the lower birch field area of the



reserve are the Gatekeeper butterfly. These are smaller than Meadow Browns and have a much brighter orange and black patterning. You will see them on the flowers of the brambles. Also seen are Small Skipper and Small Copper Butterflies.

As we go into August and the days heat up, we will see more of the knapweed; purple flower, a bit thistle-like without the prickles. These, along with thistles will be nectar rich and the butterfly populations will hopefully boom, with more species becoming observable. To help us in the future we broke areas in the Dingle into sections. You will find a summary of our surveying and how we have divided the area into sections below:

1st section started at the Railway entrance working down to the pond. This area was mainly flowers plus 3 types of butterflies.

We then moved onto the 2nd section which moved down from the pond towards the Dingle, starting with flag Iris's and duck weed in the pond. After the pond we found lots of flowers but more varied than before, along with a wolf spider, this area also saw the start of the trees.

3rd section went down into the Dingle, this area provided flowers and trees but also ferns.

4th section started at the Boardwalk many of the same trees but several different flowers including the start of the ranunculi (wild garlic). By then we had reached the seat halfway down the Dingle and decided to finish for the day.

We returned to complete the survey on June 11th moving down from the seat to the gate at the end of the Dingle. Again we found a variety of trees, flowers, ferns, and grasses. Arriving at the area were the bluebells. These were dying back so we removed some of the stalks and for those with seed heads on we scattered on the clear area up towards the pond.

If anyone would like to join us, we meet every 2nd Sunday of the month at the Colliery entrance 1:30 p.m.



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What's on in August 2023!

Tues 1st	WI Crown Green Bowls	St Martins Miners Institute Bowling Green	1:00pm
Wed 2nd	Hearing Loss Support Hubs Usually 1 st Wednesday of every month	Oswestry Library	Booking required 01743 342168
Tues 8th & Thurs 24th	Shropshire Council Local Drop-In	Oswestry Library	10:00am - 2:00pm
Wed 9th	Weston Rhyn & District Gardening Club Bugs & Slugs, Spots & Rots	Weston Rhyn Institute	7:15pm
None this month	St Martins Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm
Thurs 24th	Carer's Support Drop-in	Oswestry Library	10:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Wed 30th	HSBC Anti-Fraud Advice drop-in	Oswestry Library	11:00am -12:00pm