

February - March 2024

St Martins
Village
Life



This Magazine is Sponsored by Ridgway Rentals Ltd

Clubs and Groups

Bell Ringing

Parish Church Tower Wednesday 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 - 2:00pm
Contact: Dee Barnhart 01691 777842 or Marilyn Berry 07769 915201

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: Rainbows - Mrs Heather Lloyd 01691778598 mobile 07506280482

Brownies - Pam 079320231734 email isrcherpam@gmail.com

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 2ndstmartinsscouts@gmail.com

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 Di Slater 01691 112767 or email on dislater@protonmail.com

Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

Hello everyone.

I do hope you are keeping warm with this frost and icy winds, also the pavements can be very slippery so please do take care when walking out.

I had a very exciting phone call this week. A gentleman asking about the St Martins Annual Show. There are no details yet but he sounds very interested and might put on a show this year. Watch this space for dates, classes etc hopefully in the next issue.

The mini-roundabout at Stan's is getting upgraded, it might well have been done by the time you read this. What do you think, is it a good change or not? How about writing a few words and tell us what you think. I bet there will be many others thinking the same as you.

The magazine is going from strength to strength, we have been able to increase the number of copies we print but the more copies we print the more deliverers we need.

Are you able to help out? It won't be long until the homes on the new Ifton Green are occupied and we will need someone to deliver their magazines. We have some wonderful deliverers at present, they always cover people who are ill or on holiday and the job gets done but we always need the extra help. People move away or find they can no longer do it due to illness or commitments so we always need you.

And lastly, I would like to THANK Ash Alum for again brightening up our village over Christmas with the lovely Christmas Tree on the Memorial Gardens. It welcomed me back to the community every time I went out, the lights twinkling in the dark, an oasis in the dark. Did I say THANK YOU? Well, I'll say it again THANK YOU Ash.

<<<<<<>>>>>>>>

**If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication
please email your submission to stmartinsvillagelife@gmail.com
by no later than Wednesday 13th March 2024**

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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

On behalf of every one of our Parish Councillors, we wish you all a Very Happy New Year. I don't know if it was just me, but 2023 seemed to flash past in the blink of an eye.

For those of you who remember the last edition of Village Life, you will recall that I made an appeal for volunteers to help with (1) Joining our Council and (2) Joining our Community Speedwatch Group.

! SUCCESS ! I am delighted to advise that we have TWO new members of our Speedwatch Group. Thank you for your support but another couple would be the icing on the cake, so please come forward and volunteer. The duties really are not difficult or strenuous.

24 hours before writing this missive we also received positive interest in the position of Parish Councillor, so fingers crossed that we can achieve a full house.

I know that we have many parishioners who walk their dogs across the village and in the Autumn we installed around 20 new 'Dog Fouling' signs to remind owners of their responsibility to keep our pavements clean. As someone who walks Ellesmere Road and adjoining pavements I have seen a noticeable improvement, so the signs must be working. Of course, I haven't walked every pavement, so if anybody has a particular area that needs a sign (we have a couple spare), then please let us know by contacting our Parish Clerk Edward Davies: clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk

You will have also seen our efforts to gauge public feedback concerning a MUGA (**M**ulti **U**ser **G**ames **A**rea) within our village. The feedback we have received has been really helpful. As of writing this section (early January) we have 120 paper forms and 13 on-line forms completed and will soon be liaising with the school and pupils for their additional input.

We have been working with County Councillor Steve Davenport and Shropshire Council to agree the long-awaited improvements for the roundabout by Stan's. At last, the work has been completed and you will also have seen the completion of working street lamps along Overton and Ellesmere Road. It has taken a long time and a lot of hair-pulling to reach this position and our thanks again go to County Councillor Steve Davenport for his application of continual pressure on the Council.

George Smith MBE
Chairman: St Martins Parish Council

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 |
| 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 11th January 2024. Unfortunately, during the Christmas and New Year period very little gets processed due to Councils and businesses being closed.

Concern has been raised over parking issues by the school. Firstly, there seems to be an increase of parents at the start and end of the school day now parking on the grass verges depositing mud on the road when leaving and damaging the grass verges. Secondly, there seems to be an increase during the day of visitors coming into school and parking on the road adjacent to the school when there are adequate spaces in the school main car park. The Head of the school has been notified of these concerns and asked if she could look into these issues and advise what steps, if possible, can be taken to resolve these issues.

One of the main discussions concerned a planning application for a modification of Section 106 agreement in Irvine Gardens. Previously Shropshire Councils Planning Department had refused this application, on the grounds that the details of how the money secured is to be spent are vague with little reassurance that there would be a benefit to St Martins, despite the fact that the parish council had carried out a house to house survey on all properties in Irvine Gardens with the majority stating that they did not want a play area on this site as there was already a suitable site for all age groups on an area adjacent to St Martins Village Hall.

During the last few weeks, another survey has been carried out on what play facilities families would like in St Martins. Most Teenagers so far contacted have stressed the importance of having a suitable Teenage Shelter with a roof, seating and hard standing area which will allow teenagers to learn the dynamics of relationships and understand what constitute a good friendship which helps youngsters to make successful relationship choices in the future. Therefore, the Parish Council again supports this application adding that they will spend the Open Space Capital Sum of £26,655.00 on a Teenage Shelter in an area of the existing play area next to St Martins Village Hall which will be covered by an additional CCTV from the Village Hall.

Following a meeting the Chairman had with our Police & Crime Commissioner, an application has been made for funding through the Safer Roads Grant Scheme. If successful a further three Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) will be positioned, two in the centre of the village and one on the exit of the village on Moors Bank.

Work is now in hand on setting a Parish Council budget and precept for the coming financial year which will be reported in the next issue of the Village Life.

We can now report that the new cabling to the streetlights along Overton Road from Stans Superstore to The Keys PH has been completed. All lights with new LED bulbs are now working, except for one on the entrance to Garden Village which Scottish Power still have to connect power to. The parish council have also agreed to install additional streetlights in School Lane and Coopers Lane.

One of the main priority projects for the Parish Council is still safety issues at Escob Bridge. Unfortunately, the water leak just before this bridge is from a spring which requires major work to repair that will involve road closures. A suitable date has yet to be agreed.

Edward Davies,
St Martins Parish Clerk

Shropshire Council

Councillor Steve Davenport

County Councillor for St Martins, Dudleston, Dudleston Heath,
Cabinet Member for Highways

Happy new year seems a long time ago now.

Since the last magazine not much has happened,

We have had awful wet weather that has caused havoc on our roads, as you know we have eventually got the lights working on Overton road and Ellesmere road, we are in front of many villages in shropshire in terms of street lights being changed to LEDs.

By the time the magazine goes out, Stan's roundabout should be at least started the improvements. Further work negotiations being carried out re—Escob bridge and school traffic management , plus extra Vas signs helping reduce speeding traffic.

Once again I can say both the Parish Council and myself work closely together to make sure we get the best possible Results for the village,

Please if you need any help I'm in the village hall often just drop me a text or email,

.Thank you

THANK YOU TO MY CHRISTMAS "WELLWISHER"! From Effie Cadwallader

On 1st December a card with enclosed voucher for Stans appeared through my front door, a gift for me from "A Wellwisher." On the envelope flap was written "Happy Christmas. Thanks for all you do. The village appreciates it."

What a surprise and a delight!

It is rare, though not unheard of, to receive an acknowledgement for the tasks we CFRs undertake. This is completely understandable and fully accepted because we attend people in distress, and they have far more important things to think about than us volunteers.

So, through the St Martins Village magazine, I say to the well-wisher who arranged this lovely gift, a big thank you for your kind thought and generosity.

I'm very happy to report that with the voucher I bought my family's Christmas turkey from Stans.

Effie Cadwallader



ST MARTINS PARISH CHURCH

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

Revd Stuart Jermy

saintmartinjohns@icloud.com

Telephone: 778 468 or Mobile: 07766 255436

| Regular Weekly Events | | | Regular Monthly Events | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---|--|--------|-----------------------|
| Monday | 1.00pm | Little Saints Baby & Toddler Group (Term time) | | | |
| Tuesday | 9.30am | Morning Prayers | 1st Tuesday of the month | 9.30am | Monthly Communion |
| Wednesday | 10.30am | Coffee Morning | 4 th Tuesday of the month | 2.00pm | Women's Fellowship |
| Wednesday | 2.00pm | Craft & Chatter | | | |
| Wednesday | 7.00pm | Bell Handling - new ringers welcome | | | |
| Friday | 10.00am | Walking Group - meets in the car park | | | |
| Sunday | 9.30am | Service of the Word or Service with Communion – streamed on zoom | 1 st Sunday of the month | 3.30pm | Sunday Social |

Upcoming Easter Events:

Please keep an eye on the Church Calendar on our website for details of our services for the Easter period. Please also check the local social media pages.



Our Chapter House (Church Hall) is available for hire.

Our Youth Group is held at Weston Rhyn on Fridays at 4:30–6pm. School Yrs 6–12

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.

Months of the Year Quiz Answers on page 30

1. Which month is the only month with the same number of letters in its name as the number of the month?
2. The Battle of Hastings was fought in 1066, but in which month?
3. According to the poem *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot, which month is the cruellest?
4. What was the month called Quintilis renamed in 44 BC?
5. In a well known saying, which food should we only be eating in months with the letter "R"?
6. In which month of the year did The October Revolution take place in Russia, in 1914?
7. An Americanism for something that is painfully slow, complete the saying: "as slow as molasses in..."?
8. Can you name the ninth month of the Islamic calendar?
9. Which astrological star sign covers July 24 to August 23?
10. Which cartoon character, created in 1940, has three neices named April, May, and June?



St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister for St Martins

Rev Julia Skitt - phone: 07810 360778

Deacon Carys Woodley: 01939 235504

SUNDAY WORSHIP

COFFEE MORNING

Join us for coffee, biscuits, chat & warm space.

February: 1st, 15th, 29th March: 14th, 28th

10:30 - 11:30

Mothering Sunday

Afternoon tea, crafts, readings

March 10th - 2:00pm

Afternoon tea, crafts, readings

Follow us on FB: StMartinsMethodistChurch - & St Martins Chatter.

St Martins Rainbows



St Martins Rainbows have started back at the Methodist church on Ellesmere Road.

There are still spaces for any girls aged between 4 years and 7 years, we run from 5pm till 6pm every Tuesday evening.

We are also looking for a volunteer to help with the group on a regular basis, could be any one needing a placement for their Duke of Edinburgh or someone wishing to join the group as a trainee. Please contact Heather on 0750628280482

You can register using the girlguiding.org.uk website

ST MARTINS YOUTHIE

St Martins Village Hall, SY11 3AY

FRIDAY EVENINGS (term time only) 7.00 -8.00

ENTRY STILL ONLY £1 All school year 6 & older welcome

A CELEBRATION - REMEMBER

Playing darts in the Scout Hut? Designing the mosaic for Ifton Meadows? Drumming on a float in the St Martins Pageant? A Youthie talent concert at the Stute? Football at the Quinta? Painting your portrait on the wall? Canoeing on the canal? Sea fishing? Silent Disco? Human Hungary-Hippo? Dodge Ball?

30 YEARS AND STILL GOING

All you youngsters join us to try new skills.

All you "oldies" join us for some fun, laughs and memories.

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY APRIL 20TH



FB: STMartinsYOUTHCLUB

2nd St Martins Scout Group



A great Autumn term for our Scouts and Cubs culminated in an overnight winter camp just before Christmas. The cubs put their tents up inside the hut (a challenge in itself!), and the scouts outside despite the weather, and then they lit fires and played games. In the morning they all successfully cooked their own breakfast.

Both groups have a busy term ahead. Cubs will be working towards a number of badges including artist, chef, first aid, backwood cooking and personal safety, and ending the term with an Easter Camp.

The scouts will be training for a shooting competition, improving their navigation skills, expanding their knot knowledge and then developing pioneering skills, and taking on personal and group challenges. There will also be evenings where the more experienced scouts who are now patrol leaders or assistant patrol leaders will be training their patrols, and learning valuable leadership and planning skills.

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



Happy New Year from all volunteers at the Village Hall.

I wish to thank all the community for their support, gifts, and many donations given to the Village Hall in the run up to Christmas.

Stans Superstore, The Keys pub, Foundation Pilings, and many individual prize givers.

We have had a busy run up to Christmas holding many events from Carboots, Bingo Evening, Table Top sales ,Halloween Craft event and not to forget Father Christmas's visit to the hall.

We thank you for your support.

Please keep an eye out for further coming events or if you have any ideas for events please feel free to pass them on, many thanks Heather.



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ST MARTINS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Happy New Year to you all.

Our Village Hall Centre is open again now after a Christmas break.

We have a new exercise class running on a Wednesday morning and Thursday evening, Yoga Move Freely, which is a class to restore movement to our winter bodies.

Our coffee and chat Tuesday mornings are enjoyed by many making new friends and renewing friendships. A warm welcome is there for anyone.

We are installing new bookshelves in the library, and there are books for everyone, from children's, crime books, and autobiographies to travel books, cookery etc.

You are welcome to browse our bookshelves and take as many as you wish, no records are kept, so bring along books you have read and find new books to take.

We have many regular groups that meet now, such as Parkinson's support, St Martins history group, ballet, yoga move freely, spinning, U3A, youth club, Parish council meetings, and many more. Our activity room is ideal for children's parties, and the lounge for more sedate parties.

We have a large group of volunteers to help at functions throughout the year, and we will be starting the car boot on Saturdays again soon.

Please pop in as you pass to pick up a book or 2, or look in on a Tuesday morning when it is open to anyone wanting a snack or drink.

St. Martins Volunteer Car Scheme

If you need to get anywhere local and you are unable to access local transport please ring to make a booking.

Here to help 07931760879

Line open 9:00am – 5:00pm 7 days a week.

<<<<<>>>>>

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

<<<<<>>>>>

No distance too small.

If you want to go to a Doctor's surgery, a hospital appointment, chiropodist, dentist, visit someone in a care home...ring and see how we can help.

We have now undertaken 95 trips, and not a passenger was lost (!)

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**Oswestry Rural North
Safer Neighbourhoods Team**

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**





cold morning vehicle safety

As the mornings appear to be getting colder and we are seeing some snow in places, this is just a message to remind people that although vehicle crime is low across West Mercia, every winter the force receives a number of reports from drivers who have had their cars stolen after leaving the engine running, while they wait in the warmth of their home for it to heat up and defrost the windscreen.

Some vehicle owners nip inside for just a few seconds to collect a bag or finish the last mouthful of their breakfast coffee - but that's all the time an opportunist thief needs. To 'freeze out' the thieves, West Mercia Police advises motorists to:

- Clear windscreens with de-icer and a scraper
- Sit in vehicles while the heater de-mists the windscreen

Drivers who ignore this advice are taking big risks. Thieves will drive around residential areas looking for likely targets - when they spot a vehicle with its engine left running on a drive or outside a home, it's there for the taking.

One person will be dropped off, gets into the target vehicle and simply drives away.

Many of the vehicles are never recovered, and some - especially high value models such as Mercedes, BMW and Audi - may be shipped overseas.

It is also worth remembering if your car is stolen when keys have been left in it, you may find your insurance will not cover you. If your house keys are stolen along with your car, your home is then vulnerable too.

So, this winter, don't give criminals an easy ride by leaving your car running unattended.



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A warm, welcome "Hello to 2024" and farewell to a giant of a friend of Ifton Meadows.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of a stalwart friend of the Ifton Meadows. On the 3rd of December 2023 Neil Graham died. He was a founding member of the Ifton Meadows Management Committee, this group of local volunteers that give their time freely to undertake management work on the Meadows. Neil was always down on the meadows, usually with his dogs, Frankie and Gwynn to name two. He was most

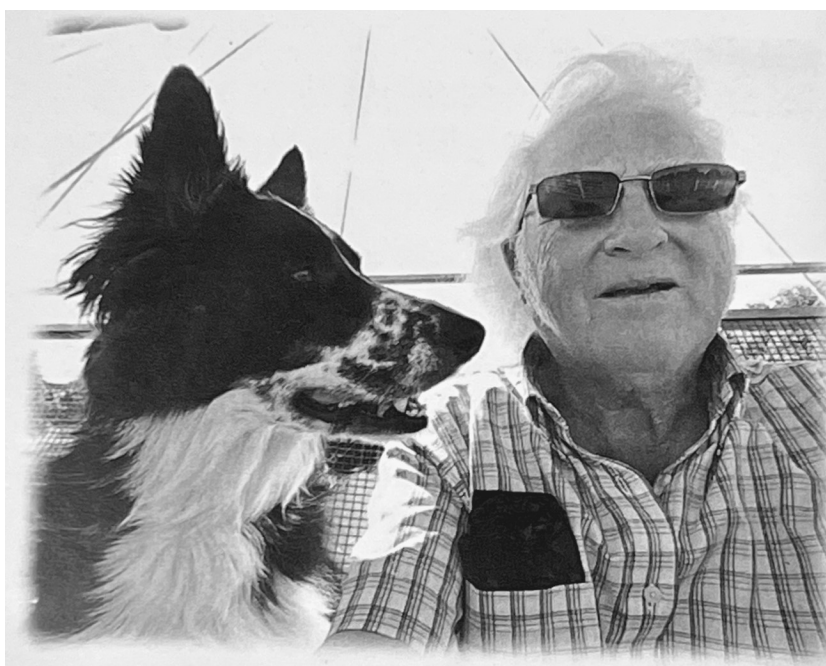
knowledgeable about the habitats and creatures of the Meadows, he was sociable, approachable, amiable and welcoming to all that he met down there. Neil, you were unique and irreplaceable and will be missed by your friends in this group and your friends on the Meadows and indeed in St. Martins. Rest in Peace, Sir.

So 2024, as with all years, it marches on and we are due to enter the fine month of February. The days are drawing out, hopefully the rainy days will be getting fewer per week, spring shoots are growing and indeed if you look over any fence, especially in and around the Meadows, the grass is definitely getting greener. And we can hope that the ground is getting drier, less squelching around as you walk the paths of the reserve. And as you visit the Meadows keep an eye out for the Skylarks as they will now be becoming more prominent in the sky above. And back to green shoots, in the Dingle the Snowdrops should be giving a good display, and hopefully some of the transplanted bulbs on the slope just down from the railway entrance pond may have been bold enough to show their heads. We should also start to see the yellow celandine.

The volunteer work parties are continuing, we will be meeting as usual at the main entrance at 1:30pm on the second Sunday of each month. In December, unfortunately, due to the wet weather we had to abandon the work party, however, the January work party took place and we continued to cut back brambles that are overtaking the grass, we are hoping that cutting them back will weaken them and slow their march to conquer the meadows. In February we will continue to do this and even take down more of the invasive birch saplings.

If you are interested in helping us then the dates for February and March are Sunday 11th February and Sunday 10th March.

Please visit and enjoy the meadows, the views from the Mosaic are beautiful, a view our friend Neil was very fond of.





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Darrell & Lee Cooke

Unit 1b St Martins Business Park

Ellesmere Road, St Martins

Oswestry, SY11 3BE

What's on in February 2024!

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Tues 6th | WI Adventures of Dame Agnes Hunt | St Martins Miners Institute | 7:30pm |
| Wed 7th | Hearing Loss Support Hubs Usually 1 st Wednesday of every month | Oswestry Library | Booking required 01743 342168 |
| Thurs & Thurs | Shropshire Council Local Drop-In | Please check with Oswestry Library | 10:00am - 2:00pm |
| Thurs 8th | St Martins Parish Council | St Martins Centre | 7:00pm |
| Wed 14th | Weston Rhyn & District Gardening Club Organic Dream | Weston Rhyn Institute | 7:15pm |
| Thurs th | Carer's Support Drop-in | Please check with Oswestry Library | 10:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm - 3:30pm |
| Thur 29th | The Extra Day | Do something great with today | |