

Update from the Village Life Magazine Committee

Several people have asked why there is no date of issue on each edition of **Village Life**. In fact there is, but it is lost in the background of the cover picture, so this month we have modified it to make it easier to see!

On the subject of the magazine and the cover, you may be aware that this month marks the first anniversary of the creation of the Editorial Committee, and the edition to be published in May will be the first publication of our second year. To mark the birthday of the magazine we will be running a competition (prize yet to be decided) for a birthday cover to be used for that one edition. This competition is open to all readers of any age. If you have an idea for a birthday cover please send it to our email address (see below on this page) or drop a paper copy into the Centre, either way by no later than the end of February. The Committee will choose a winner whose details will be announced in the March magazine.

Towards the back of this month's magazine you will see a double page article from the Three Parishes Big Local. It is great to see the efforts being made by them to support local groups and events and if you are involved with any local group don't miss the chance to apply for a grant to help you. They talk about this in their article, but modestly do not say that they have given a £200 grant to help with the financing of our magazine – for which we express our grateful thanks.

John Stevens (Chair of the Editorial Committee)

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If you wish to submit an article or advertise in the next publication please email it to smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com by no later than Friday 13th March 2015

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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 responsible for loss, however arising, from the use of or reliance in this information. Full text of 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 not get one please email smartinsvillagelife@gmail.com

Parish Council

From the Chair

Hello

Well here we are in 2015. I do hope you have all had a brilliant Christmas and on behalf of the Parish Council I wish you and yours a very bright and exciting New Year.



Did you get to the turning on of the Christmas Tree Lights? Someone did a quick head count and told me there were 200 people, plus 'tots and dogs'. What a great turn out, so thank you to all who braved the weather to sing carols and encourage Della Cullis, the Year 6 pupil from St Martins School who expertly turned on the lights. Thank you also to North Shropshire Transport, Neville and Ben Peate

for donating the tree, transporting it and erecting it, R&D Ground Works, Mark Thomas for digging the hole and lining it with concrete so it can be used year after year, Ashley Allum for having the idea in the first place, carrying the idea through and connecting the electrics. Brilliant guys. Thank you very much for helping to make this village a better place to live. Some people have expressed their concern about the Ifton Colliery Band not being there, this is



purely my fault. The date for the event was not set until the Monday before which, I was very short notice for the band, knowing a little of the commitments, they already had that week booked, let alone that day. The good news is that they are booked for this coming December to lead us in the carols.



If anyone has any good ideas for the next one please do get in touch, either drop in at the Centre or just drop a note in the post box for me.

I am delighted to say that all the legal papers have now been cleared through Shropshire Council with regard to the removal of the hedges (and re-planting) to widen the footpath in front of Rhos-y-Lan Farm. We are hoping that it won't be too long before it is done.

The village is now fully covered by Super Fast Broadband with the switching on of Cabinet 4 on the 15th December 2014 which enabled the central part of the village to access broadband downloads of up to 80Mb. Contact your Internet provider for more information.

Best wishes to all

Sue Schofield

Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

At their January meeting Councillors made the following comments on a number of planning applications, which included:-

Proposed erection of a 3 bedroom chalet style bungalow at Comet House, Ellesmere Road, St Martins, Shropshire SY11 3HT – the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

Residential Development land west of Baytree Close, St Martins, Shropshire for the erection of 3 terrace style dwellings, formation of vehicular access off Baytree Close and associated parking (revised scheme). The Parish Council were concerned over the surface water drainage in this area and thought three dwellings would be an over development of this site. In addition they agreed that no development should be considered or approved from a private driveway but from an adopted road with street lighting to an LED standard.

Concern was again expressed over the speed of traffic through St Martins and the police had been notified of this. The police had stated that they had already used the Speed Gun in the village and had recorded the speeds. They will continue to do this as and when they are able to do so and will then build up some data that they will forward to the parish council in due course.

A report was received from the Street Lighting committee who are looking at the possibility of improving the lighting in the village by installing LED light units which will also reduce energy costs. An annual maintenance check will be carried out during the next few weeks which will then highlight which columns may need replacing and the costs involved.

Various highway issues were raised which have been reported to Shropshire Council Highways Department. These included; road markings on either side of Escob Bridge need re-painting plus a new pothole has opened up just as you reach the road sign warning of horses crossing - road surface very pitted on the Overton Road at New Ifton - manhole cover opposite Chapel in Ellesmere Road sinking badly and pot holes reported in Cottage Lane by Cross Lanes Farm and the junction to the new barn conversions. Members expressed their deep concerns that Shropshire Council's Cabinet had decided at their meeting in December not to pass on to parish and town councils in Shropshire any of the council tax support grant they receive from the government, but to use this as to balance their own books. This they felt was a blatant political ploy by Shropshire Council to freeze their council tax and look good while parish council's like St Martins would have to increase their tax level by up to 11% to maintain the services they provided in 2014/15 or be forced to reduce spending on services, or to cut services altogether. The Parish Council will be setting their budget and precept at their next meeting on the 12th February 2015. Edward Davies FILCM,

Current Parish Councillors

Ashley Allum	01691 770042
Gordon Fryer	01691 774520
Neil Graham	01691 778427
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
Brian Herbert	01691 772647
James Hoos	01691 661218
Alison Kynaston-Jones	01691 777671
Duncan Laing	07702991845
Brian Latham	01691 772890
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
John Sands	01691 772394
John Stevens	01691 770677
Sue Schofield	01691 777710
Helen Williams	01691 777561

Shropshire Council

Councillor Steve Davenport

Unitary Councillor, St Martins School Governor, Chair of St Martins Centre Trustees

I hope you had a good Christmas and new year,

There hasn't been a lot happening since the last issue Council wise, except the ongoing talk around cuts in funding. We at Shropshire Council are having to do more with less, in fact, £80 million less, not a good position to be in, while trying not to affect front line services. I hear you say why has there been so much spent in the past and only archiving the same, well I do agree,

Planning has also been a problem recently, it's almost been open season for builders to do what they want, but now Samdev is close to being agreed with central government and we can now start to refuse unwanted speculative building.

Just to update you with what's happening with the Dart Energy gas extraction site in Duddleston, has now gone to appeal where I and Frack Free Duddleston, will strongly defend,

Once again you can contact me via Sue at the centre, or call me on 07776173678
Email steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk.

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Leslie Younger

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Food for Thought 4

Decision time! Having eaten, drunk and spent too much over Christmas and the New Year, do we dine out this month? A compromise was reached. We would have a take away. So first port of call was to Stan's supermarket (in our opinion the best in the area) for some alcoholic refreshment.

As we had heard good reports of the Taj Indian take away in Gobowen we gave it a whirl.

We opted for Papadoms, Chicken Chat and Shami Kebab as starters, followed by Chicken Tikka and Tandoori Chicken Balti. I know our choices were a bit chicken loaded but neither of us like spicy lamb dishes very much. We also had a portion of mushroom pilau rice between us.

Everything was very good and plenty of it. The only down side was the Chicken Chat contained a lot of onion in quite large pieces. We had intended to follow it all with ice cream but we were too full.

Then came the washing up but as it all cost around £30 including the liquid refreshment it was worth it.

The Village Life Foodsmith

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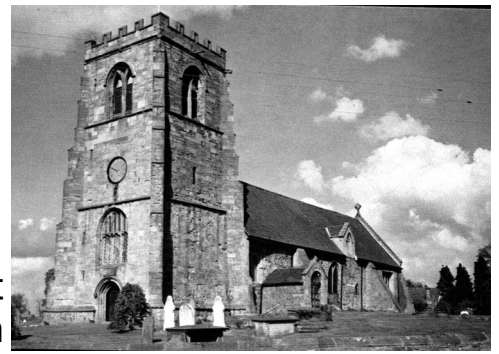
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The Benefice of St. Martins and Weston Rhyn.

Service Times:

Holy Communion Service 9:30am every Sunday except **3rd Sunday** of the month when we have a **topical non Eucharist** service, particularly good for people new to church.

1st Sunday of month 11:00am - **Sunday FIRST family worship.** A short Service, bible story, contemporary music, prayer and afterwards craft and refreshments. A chance to worship God as a whole family and hear bible stories that bring good values and meaning to young (& not so young) lives. Great fun for all ages.

Weekly events:

Tuesday **Coffee morning** at 10:30 in the Church Chapter House

Wednesday 9:30am **Mid week Communion.** 10:30 - 11:30am Foodbank

There are various home bible study groups that take place at different times - please ask if interested.

St. Martins and Weston Rhyn **Church Youth Group** - Fridays 7:30 at Weston Rhyn Church.

Fish and Chip Supper - 17th Feb.

Everyone is welcome to join us for an evening in the Chapter house (next to the Church) for a meal of Fish and Chips and games afterwards.

Please contact the vicar or see church notices for details.

Thank God for Mum **Mothering Sunday Service - at unusual time of 10am March 15th**

A service for all the family to thank God for our mums, with refreshments and craft afterwards for the children. Come light a candle for your mother to remember her on this special day.

Calling any musicians.

Music is an important part of church worship. If you love to play and would like to join in with the music on a Sunday morning or at other occasions please let us know. We have an organ as well as keyboard but welcome other instrumentalists.

Christenings / Baptisms / Confirmations

It doesn't cost anything for a Christening service.

It is never too late to get baptised or confirm your own infant baptism. Perhaps God is calling you to do this this year.

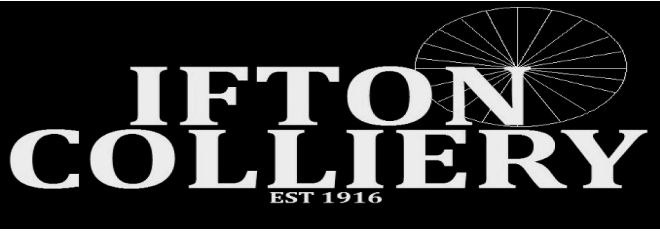
Weddings

Please contact Revd. Stuart 778 468, if you would like to get married.

If you have questions about the faith, things you want to ask God or just want to learn more about Christianity we are starting **Christianity Explored and Alpha Course** in February 2015.

Church Website: www.stmartinsparish.co.uk

Contact Revd Stuart Jermy - sjvicar@btinternet.com; 778 468; text 07766 255436



Ifton Colliery Band News

As 2014 drew to a close it gave the band a few weeks rest after a very busy December, it also gave the band time to get together without instruments for our Christmas Party held this year at The Keys in St Martin's. There was a small award ceremony with awards being given for Musical Director's Player of the year going to the bands contest secretary and back row cornet player, Jane Goff. Player of the year was voted for by the players and went to the bands soprano cornet player Rachael King, and a very special award was given for long service to the band which went to Barry Clegg who played euphonium.

The band has had a great start 2015 when on Saturday 17th January, we travelled to Skegness and took part in the Butlins Miner Works Championships. We were awarded 4th place in a field of 18 bands. It was our first contest in the 3rd section so were all pleased with the result.

As well as taking part in the championship it was a great social event as most of the band stayed the weekend and had a chance to see some of the country top bands perform which included the British Army's Band of Kings division. The band featured Rich Evans who lives in the village and is a past member of the band.

The bands next outing will be to the Midlands regional contest on the 7th of March in Bedworth.

Parish Plan Committee

The Parish Plan Committee are to hold an **"Open Forum" on Saturday 21st March at The St Martins Centre from 11am till 3pm** when the village residents are invited to come and discuss issues around "How can we make our village better" with members of the committee, the Parish Council and our representative on the Unitary Council. The proposed Parish Plan will be available for you to read and discuss with us, plus any other issues you would like to raise.

There will a display and updates that have already been proposed by parishioners and various groups within the village.

COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY.



FAIRshare Credit Union **coming to St Martins**

Working with The Three Parishes Big Local partnership, the FAIRshare Credit Union will shortly be opening a new Service Point in St Martins. This Credit Union is a friendly, not-for-profit 'community bank' offering a secure home for savings and the option to access affordable low cost loans. Anyone who lives, works or studies in Shropshire can join FAIRshare – previous County Court Judgements (CCJs), bankruptcy or insolvency do not prevent membership. As part of the association with the Three Parishes Big Local partnership, FAIRshare will also be providing budgeting support & debt advice signposting.

Like all Credit Unions, FAIRshare offers savers the opportunity to invest in their local community. Regular savings create a "pool of money" which can be loaned to members. The money stays within the local community and benefits others in Shropshire. Like any bank or building society, FAIRshare is authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority & the Prudential Regulation Authority. Members' savings are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, currently to the value of £85,000.

FAIRshare members have access to flexible, low cost loans from £50 to £7,500 borrowed over anything from a few weeks up to 5 years. Interest charges from only 0.83% per month (10.47% APR) are calculated on the reducing balance – not the original loan value – and the amount borrowed is based on income and expenditure. There are no arrangement fees and no penalties for early repayment and loans are covered by free life insurance for peace of mind. A FAIRshare loan can be more than 25 times cheaper than a doorstep lender and 100 times cheaper than pay day lenders.

FAIRshare also offers business & community membership to Shropshire based clubs, societies, associations, businesses & charities, offering a local, safe, ethical home for funds. Businesses and community groups can apply for business loans up to the value of £15,000, to be repaid over a maximum of 5 years.

The Three Parishes Big Local partnership and FAIRshare Credit Union invite you to their Opening Afternoon at the St Martins Centre on Wednesday 18th February 2015, 3pm – 4.30pm. Please do come along and find out more about FAIRshare and the exciting new services available to you.

The new St Martins Service Point will be at the St Martins Centre every Tuesday morning, 9am to 11am, starting on 24th February 2015.

For more information, please visit www.fairshare.uk.com or contact Andrea Broady, FAIRshare Marketing & Business Development Officer, by telephone on 07801 456718, or by emailing marketing@fairshare.uk.com.



St Martins Methodist Church

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Minister: Rev. Heather Wilson

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MY GUIDE

Guide Dogs are happy to introduce the My Guide Service, operating in and around the village of St Martins. This is a free service that involves a trained volunteer member of staff, guiding and assisting blind and partially-sighted people to get out and about in their local area.

All our volunteers are highly trained and are carefully selected in order to be suitably matched with the client. All volunteers are also subject to a DBS (criminal records) check before being approved by the My Guide Service. The working partnership between a My Guide and the client lasts for a period of six months and is regularly reviewed, with no obligation on either party.

The aim of such a working partnership is to increase confidence and promote independence, allowing the client to meet up with friends and to participate in activities in the community. It also provides a means of simply getting out of the house, away from the isolation that comes with visual impairment, motivation to get out and attempt new experiences.

Should you, anyone you know, feel that the My Guide Service could be of benefit to you, please contact your Local Volunteer Representative, Sandi Roberts, who will be happy to help with any questions you may have.

Sandi can be contacted on: email: sandi.roberts@guidedogs.org.uk or by telephone on 07785 433233.

Additionally, if you feel that you might like to become a Volunteer with Guide Dogs, or for further information regarding the My Guide service, please contact Guide Dogs on 0118 983 5555, ext 6349 or email: Allison.richards@guidedogs.org.uk

Croesoswallt Archers

Hi Everybody,

I write on behalf of Croesoswallt Archers of Oswestry. It seems that many people do not know about our club even though it has been going for well over 50 years. It was started by the Orthopaedic Hospital and meets on the playing field behind the hospital in Gobowen. We are always looking for new members, so anybody who is interested in joining please get in touch with me on 01691 777952, or Martin Hughes (chairman) on 01939 260608 or 07884 371169 and we will give you all the details.



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General Knowledge Quiz

1. What does a hygrometer measure?
2. Which English cricketer was known as Beefy?
3. What is the name of the leader of UKIP?
4. What does a marsupial do that other animals don't?
5. How does a Sporting Lemur get its name?
6. Who was the first footballer to be knighted?
7. What year was George Orwell's novel 1984 first published?
8. What was the name of Harold Wilson's wife?
9. How did singer Michael Holliday die?
10. Which country grows the most bananas?



ANSWERS Novembers issue

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. Teacher
2. Pam Ayres
3. A good walk ruined
4. Margaret (of Anjou)
5. Graf Spee
6. Mount Everest
7. Four
8. Wood (Balsa, Ply & Mahogany)
9. Northern Ireland
10. Ten

How many did you get right?

Louise King had all 10 questions correct. Congratulations Louise the £10 prize is yours.

You will find the answers to this month's quiz on page 31.

Arriva Bus Timetable

There seems to be a lot of confusion on when the buses run through St Martins. On the opposite page is a shortened version of the current timetable taken from the Arriva website.



It would be useful to monitor how the buses are running. Are they on time, late or early? Are the drivers helpful? Are the fares reasonable? If you would like to write to the magazine with your observations/questions, we will contact Arriva for some feed back.

Bus Timetable Route 53

As of November 2015

Ifton Heath to OSWESTRY

Route

Ifton Heath, Halls Corner	07:20	07:55	08:55	09:35	10:10	10:50	11:30	12:10	12:50	13:30	14:10	15:45	16:10	16:50	17:30	18:10	18:50
Gobowen, Post Office	07:27	08:02	09:02	09:42	10:17	10:57	11:37	12:17	12:57	13:37	14:17	15:52	16:17	16:57	17:37	18:17	18:57
Orthopaedic Hospital	07:30	08:05	09:05	09:45	10:20	11:00	11:40	12:20	13:00	13:40	14:20	15:55	14:20	17:00	17:40	18:20	19:00
Oswestry Bus Station	07:45	--	09:20	10:00	10:40	11:20	12:00	12:40	13:20	14:00	14:40	16:00	16:40	17:20	18:00	18:40	19:20
		Black Gate															

OSWESTRY to Ifton Heath

Oswestry Bus Station	07:10	08:00	08:45	09:30	10:00	10:40	11:20	12:00	12:40	13:20	14:00	15:20	16:00	16:40	17:20	18:00	
Orthopaedic Hospital	07:20	08:10	08:55	09:40	10:10	10:50	11:30	12:10	12:50	13:30	14:10	15:30	16:10	16:50	17:30	18:10	
Gobowen, Post Office	07:23	08:13	08:58	09:43	10:13	10:53	11:33	12:13	12:53	13:33	14:13	15:33	16:13	16:53	17:33	18:13	
Ifton Heath, Halls Corner	07:30	08:20	09:05	09:50	10:20	11:00	11:40	12:20	13:00	13:40	14:20	15:40	16:20	17:00	17:40	18:20	

St Martins Book Group

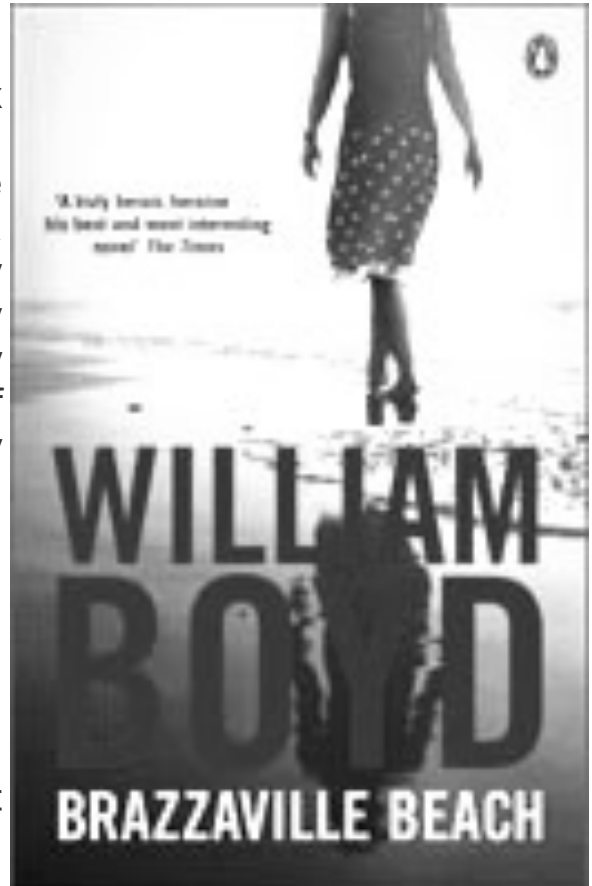
The Book Group met on Monday 12 January to discuss our current book, *The Blessing* by Nancy Mitford. It received a very mixed reception with some on the Group thoroughly enjoying the book while others found it hard going, but that is the nature of Book Groups; not every book chosen suits each individual but it does serve to widen the reading experience. *The Blessing* is very much of its time, set in immediate post 2nd World War Britain and France. It is also written in the style of that time but nevertheless well written.

Our next book is *Brazzaville Beach* by William Boyd, below is a brief resume:

On Brazzaville Beach, on the edge of Africa, Hope Clearwater examines the complex circumstances that brought her there. Sifting the details for evidence of her own innocence or guilt, she tells her engrossing story with a blunt and beguiling honesty that not only intrigues and disturbs but is also completely enthralling. *Brazzaville Beach* will be loved by fans of *Any Human Heart*, as well as readers of Ben Macintyre, Sebastian Faulks, Nick Hornby and Hilary Mantel.

Future meeting dates are: Feb 23, April 13, May 18, June 29, Aug 10, Sep 21, Nov 2, Dec 14 all at 6:30.

For further details telephone Kathy Latham on 01691 772890, or contact her by email at kathy.latham1946@btinternet.com



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WI Report

December 2015

Members and friends attended the annual Christmas meal on 2nd December at The White Lion, Whittington. Our President Shirley Willis reminded everyone of the past years' events and thanked everyone for their help. She also thanked the committee members and Helen Williams for her work as treasurer for the past 4 years as she is stepping down now and handing over to Ann Sadler.

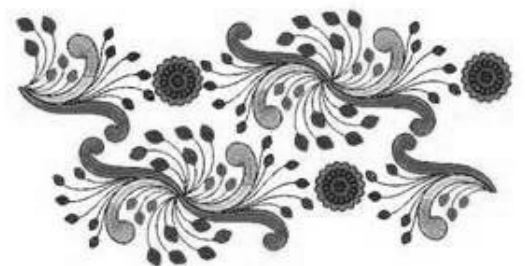
The Competition Cup was won by Isobel Banham. The Exhibition Cup was won jointly by Ruth Dean and Isobel Banham. 10 members did attend the W.I. Group Carol service on 8th Dec. The evening ended with a quiz.

January 2015

At our first meeting of the year on 6th January, our President Shirley Willis welcomed everyone and wished us a Happy New Year. We sang Jerusalem. Gwyneth, a visitor, was welcomed.

The newsletter was read and discussed. Members were reminded that Denman Bursaries can be applied for. The voting forms for the AGM resolutions were to be handed in for posting to Shropshire Head Office. Shirley Willis will be our delegate at the AGM in June at the Albert Hall. Angela Ree asked for volunteers for the Oswestry Show Committee. She requested more recipes for our proposed book to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the WI. We also discussed Stonyford Cottage Garden & Nursery as a possible venue for our August outing. Myfanwy will get more information on this.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr David Martin, a Welfare Vet. He gave a slide show and a remarkably interesting talk of his work, covering such diverse subjects from welfare of animals with the RSPCA, to organised crime involving puppy farming and badger baiting. Occasional call outs to bizarre incidents - one included an escaped bull on a playing field near a school in the middle of the night! After his talk he was thanked by Alice Wilding. The competition of a slice of Christmas cake was won by Jean Lunt, with Isobel Banham, Alice Wilding and Shirley Willis jointly 2nd. The exhibition of a Christmas card showing an animal was won by Myfanwy Dulson, 2nd was Alice Wilding, 3rd was Morfydd James. The evening ended with bingo.



The Wrekin Housing Trust

Bower Farm Update



The Wrekin Housing Trust is pleased to announce that phase 2 of Bower Farm is now underway. Here the Trust has appointed CGL Homes to build 19 new homes for affordable rent – 8 x 2 bed houses, 6 x 3 bed houses, 3 x 1 bed bungalows and 2 x 2 bed bungalows. All properties will be built to Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 offering energy efficient, comfortable homes for our residents.

The first of these new homes will be complete and ready to let later in 2015. Anyone with a local connection to St Martins and interested in a property should register online at www.shropshirehomepoint.co.uk. If you do not have access to the internet you can collect an application form from the St Martins Centre or arrange to register online using one of the computers at the Centre.

You will have noticed that the first 12 properties are now complete and occupied! We think the new development looks fantastic and the new residents have now settled into their new homes.



St Martins Centre

Hi All. Hope you had a great Christmas with plenty to do.

We are now well into the New Year and I cannot help but think about what this year will hold for us as a Community Centre. There are still plenty of maintenance jobs to do and thankfully I have a very willing man to do them. We have plans to upgrade the kitchen so it can be used to produce meals to very high hygienic standards (anyone out there that wants to run a luncheon club?), we want to put in a loft ladder to be able to use the storage space in the attic, we want to put some new seats in the Community Garden and re-instate the raised flower bed, but all this takes time and money. Can anyone help with any of these things?

If you can please come and talk to me at the Centre.

One of the new things that got underway last year is the Photocopier Service we can now provide to the community. We have now completed 2 projects to print booklets which has proven to be a great success.

Black and white A4 is now 5p per copy, Colour A4 10p per copy. We can also do A3 black and white 10p, colour 20p. All these prices are for up to 10 copies.

For any larger runs please phone for a quote.

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What's on in February!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Tues 3rd	WI Machine Embroidery	Ifton Miners Institute	7:30pm
Wed 4th	St Martins Craft Guild	Cedar Close	2-4pm (and weekly)
Fri 6th	Oswestry Sinfonia We're welcoming New Players	St Oswald's Church Oswestry	7:30pm
Thurs 12th	Parish Council meeting	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sat 14th	Special Valentine's Menu	The Keys	From 5pm
Sun 15th	Valentines Quiz	Ifton Miners Institute	6pm
Wed 18th	Children's/Young People Free Activities	St Martins Centre	1:30—4:30pm
Wed 18th	Launch of FAIRShare Credit Union	St Martins Centre	3pm Free Refreshments available
Mon 23rd	Book Club	St Martins Centre	6:30pm

What's on in March!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Tues 3rd	WI: Kenya Schools Project	Ifton Miners Institute	7:30pm
Sat 7th	Live Band: 'The New Fools'	Ifton Miners Institute	8pm
Tues 10th	IMMC: Tony Gray Bees and Bumble Bees	St Martins Centre Charge £2.50	7:30pm
Thurs 12th	Parish Council meeting	St Martins Centre	7pm
Sunday 15th	Mothering Sunday	Church Service	10am
Sat 21st	Open Forum Parish Plan	St Martins Centre	11am-3pm
Sat 21st	St Patrick's Night	Ifton Miners Institute	8pm
Thurs 26th	Christine Foulkes-Jones of Hall Farm Nursery Illustrated talk	St Martins Church Charge £5	7:30pm

Please let us know the time and date of events in April and May for the next edition of Village Life by no later than

Friday 13th March 2015.

If you send us an article for the next edition, please bear in mind that it will be delivered in early April, so any events you report on will have happened before then. If you want to mention any upcoming events or activities make sure they are in April and May (or later).



St Martins School

welcomes Carol Jones as new Assistant Head of the Primary Phase

I started my teaching career 18 years ago at a large three-form entry Primary School in Flintshire. I have been a teacher at Gobowen Primary School for the last 16 years. I have also worked as a Local Authority Advisor for Gifted and Talented provision and have travelled to Australia and Austria to share good practice.

I am passionate about music and the arts in the curriculum and like to share my enthusiasm with pupils of all ages. I am looking forward to being part of the St. Martins Community Choir and further promoting musical activities within the school.

In my spare time I am a member of Porthywaen Silver Band and enjoy performing at a range of events in the local area.

I am delighted to have been appointed as the Assistant Headteacher of the Primary Phase at St Martins School. It is such an exciting opportunity to be part of the first all through school in Shropshire. The facilities available to pupils and staff are fantastic. The school has a well-established family ethos and pupils, staff, parents and governors have already made me feel part of the team.



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Thursday 9.30am - 12.00 noon

St Martins Centre (St Martins)
Wednesday 9.30am - 12.00 noon

Wem Library and Learning Centre
Tuesday 9.30am - 12.00 noon
Tuesday 1.30pm - 4.00pm

Qube, Oswestry
Friday 9.30am - 12.00 noon

Oswestry Campus
Monday 9.30am - 12.00 noon
Monday 1.30pm - 4.00pm
Monday 6.30pm - 9.00pm

You can join any of the courses at any time throughout the year. If you would like further information regarding any of the courses listed above, please contact Ray Barlow - 07976384662, e-mail r.barlow@wnsc.ac.uk or you can ring The Community Education Department on 01691 688083.

www.wnsc.ac.uk

WORD SEARCH

Marine Museum

N	Z	Y	A	G	Y	O	T	S	A	T	K	S	P	G
A	B	L	X	I	N	C	A	T	B	C	R	L	R	H
I	Y	Z	T	M	O	N	O	A	O	H	B	O	W	R
D	X	Y	E	B	S	R	B	R	T	I	H	U	P	Q
A	I	R	L	A	P	E	E	B	I	C	O	G	M	R
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C	L	D	R	N	S	G	L	R	M	M	J	L	S	D
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A	G	B	H	T	J	U	N	K	H	G	D	A	O	I
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J	W	O	A	K	U	M	M	A	R	O	N	E	E	K

Anchor

Bow

Bradbury

Captain

Chickama

Crew

Dry dock

Galley

Gimbals

Granite rock

Hold

Jackie s

Joe simpson

Keel

Keenora

Lady canadian

Lifeboat

Lighthouse

Manitoba

Marine

Messroom

Museum

Museum

Oakum

Peguis

Port

Rudder

Slough

Starboard

Stern

Telegraph

Wheel

SUDOKU

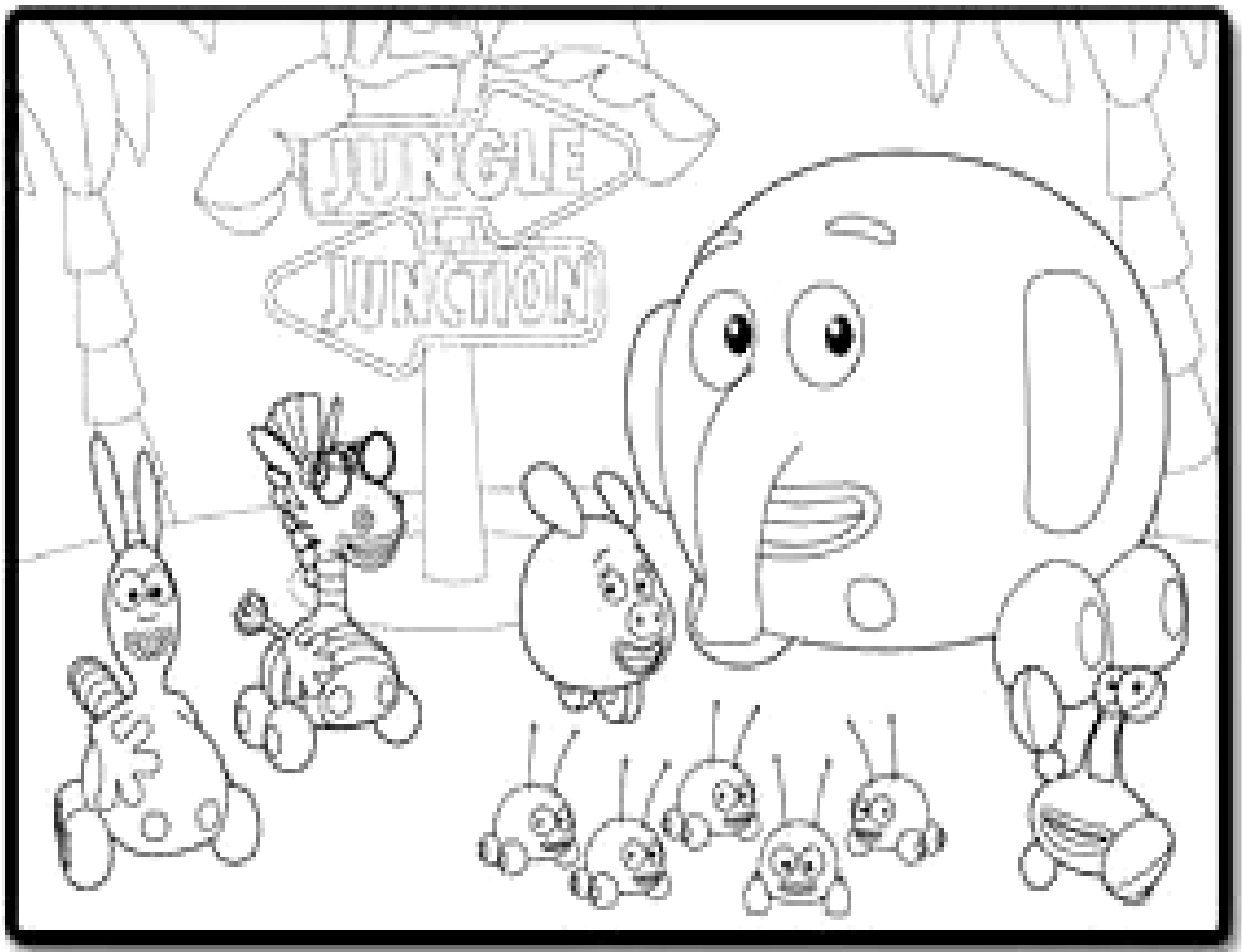
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		6	3	2		5		1
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2								7
4		3				9	1	6
		2					5	
9		7		4	5	6		
3	4		6		1			

MATH TEST!

$$3 + 3 \times 3 - 3 + 3 = ?$$

- a) 18
- b) 12
- c) 03
- d) 06

Here's a great picture for you to colour





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the Good Garage Scheme

St Martins Allotment Association

January and February does not see many of us up at the allotments apart from the occasional visit to check that all is well, like the need to keep snow brushed off the protective netting or try to rescue anything that has been blown over.

Also the occasional forays to pick vegetables that are still available like cabbages, Brussels sprouts, parsnips and carrots (if the ground is not too frozen).

This does not mean that the allotments are forgotten. We are still eating raspberries, rhubarb, strawberries, runner beans, cauliflower and peas that were put in the freezer through the summer, as well as the potatoes and apples that were stored.

I have already taken delivery of next years seeds and seed potatoes and distributed them to our members.

The potatoes will soon need to be 'chitted'. This is where the potatoes are put onto trays with the 'eye' facing upwards and placed somewhere light and frost free. This produces shoots which will give them a good start when planted.

Also, now is the time to prune 'standard' fruit trees and so we need to wrap up warmly or it will be a rushed job.



We are still planning and looking forward to the next growing year and also have to try and resist the temptation to plant too early. Late heavy frosts can do so much damage.

Roll on Spring!

Val Williamson.

THROUGH THE NEW YEAR

Take the hand of Him who is The Life,
The Truth, The Way.

He will feed you, love you and lead
you

Be your strength and stay.....

Let nothing daunt your courage

As the unknown road you tread

Safely you'll be guided

Through the year that lies ahead.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

The magazine called Gardening News runs a competition each year for local shows to enter.

There is a TOP TRAY and TOP VASE which the committee of the Grow It, Make It, Show It Show, will enter their Best in Section for Vegetables and Flowers.

There will be more information in the next magazine.

New homes at Bower Farm coming soon!

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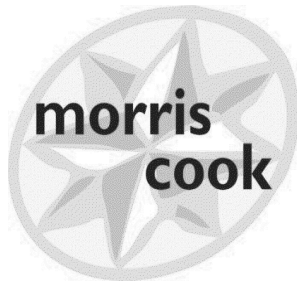
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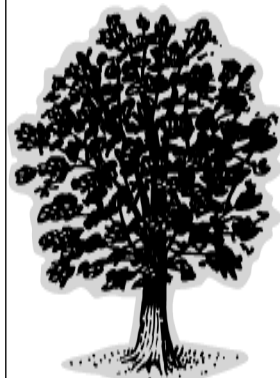
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Moors Chapel

December 7th saw the beginning of our preparations for Christmas celebrations at Moor Chapel, when the members and friends dined out at the Keys St Martins at what has now become a traditional Christmas lunch. A fabulous meal and great time of fellowship culminated in singing Carols with other diners.

The 1st Advent service had been taken earlier by Mr Nankivell when the Christmas Tree was lit up and the first of our Advent candles were lit. The theme was "The coming of light". This was also the start of the decoration of the Chapel when each week a little more was added to the preparations for Christmas day. On the 14th we held our Carol concert in the company of members from Ifton Colliery Band. The Chapel was quite full and the evening thoroughly enjoyed, prior to the service, the ladies Fellowship provided a tasty Christmas Tea.

On the 21st our service was led by Mr Ken Drury from Ellesmere. This set the seal for our Christmas Eve "Carols by Candle-Light" service of carols and six lessons describing "The Nativity" when chapel members and our dear friends from St Martins Chapel took part and friends from the local community joined us to take Holy Communion, again about 30 people taking the bread and wine and led by our minister Rev. Heather Wilson.

Final service of the month saw us attending a combined cluster service led by Rev. Heather at Chirk Bank Chapel, when the theme was Christmas gifts and we remembered THE GRATEST GIFT. So now we look forward to a New Year and I would like to leave you with a quote from Helen Steiner Rice:

This is just God saying – "Lift up your eyes to me and the bleakness of your spirit, like the budding springtime trees, will lose its wintry darkness and your heavy heart will sing. For God never sends winter without the joy of spring".

God Bless You.

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like a pullover?

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Fibre Broadband



No, this is not a new twin approach to weight loss and increasing poundage, it's actually the newly acquired in St. Martin's super-fast, all-singing, all-dancing internet service. My provider tells me

that for an additional £3 per month my downloads will be forty time faster and my uploads ten times faster. He didn't say what would happen to my overloads, some of them the consequence of Christmas, nor to my sideloads, underloads, superloads and subloads, whatever they may be. I await the promised miracle and wonder how it will impact my walks around the district, my cycle rides, browsing the cheese fridge at Stan's and my visits there for the weekend newspaper?

From time to time I look at a computer magazine. I've spent a lifetime interested in language and it fascinates me how the world of computing has generated even more than its own vocabulary. There are sentences, even paragraphs, that look and sound like English, with authentic grammar, even the familiar rhythm of language but I have to engage consciously and with a degree of patience that doesn't come easily to extract any meaning. And then, when I have done so, I'm still not much clearer and wonder why I've spent my time trying to fathom it.

The internet on the one hand is such a boon. Writing this and emailing it to Sue so that she can upload (ah, there's that word again!) it directly, if she chooses, into Village Life is a good example of one benefit. Maintaining good contact with friends and family in distant climes is another. Having no excuse for not knowing about something is yet another. For example, 'Do beavers eat fish and why do they build dams?'

You don't know? Well, you could 'Google' it. For many of us who are inclined to the



'geek' (?) end of the social spectrum 'Googling' is not an alien activity. For those for whom it is a mystery and very unfamiliar territory the world of computing is fraught with anxieties, the result of which is to treat it with downright suspicion or at least maintain a respectful distance. On the other hand the internet is not a boon especially when we hear about the horrors that social media generates, even to the simple point that it has made the teenager's bedroom no longer a



place of sanctuary. They can always be in touch with their peers!



Like all things human, the internet is a curate's egg, good in parts. I enjoy its benefits and am very wary about its capacity to compromise our life and disturb the calm and contentment that we have found in coming to live in St. Martins. I suppose the analogy is with going out for a walk. The lanes are peaceful and interesting. There is much to take in, not least in the effect of the

weather and the season on the flora and the fauna. The fields are soft underfoot and reveal the lovely views that high hedges can obscure. But there are cars that are driven by people in a preoccupied hurry and sometimes even the placid bovines can resent your presence. Therefore, so as not to spoil the pleasure and dilute the benefit it's best to have a wary eye and a sharp ear.

Sometimes the big Monty Python foot can descend and squash the most exquisite of pleasures if you're not on the lookout. And so it is with the internet. It is a boon. It makes so much accessible and is so convenient but it generates, also, many vulnerabilities, and many of these vulnerabilities were already within us and the internet is just another way of highlighting them. So, my message is? Treat the internet - and especially yourself - with care. Tread carefully but don't stop going forward. And if this all familiar and basic to you then share it gently and patiently with the sceptical. Let it encourage you and them to develop a broader band of interests and strengthen fibre!

Don Borland



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**Answers to the General
Knowledge Quiz from page 12**

1. Humidity
2. Ian Botham
3. Nigel Farage
4. Carry their offspring in a pouch
5. When attacked it defends its self by raising its fists like a boxer
6. Stanley Mathews
7. 1949
8. Mary
9. Suicide
10. India

Friends of Ifton Meadows



Hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year.

The Green Gyms in December and January went ahead as planned but at this time of the year our work is mainly cleaning leaves etc out of the ditches and making sure the drains are working properly and generally cleaning up. Similar to the work you do in the garden but on a much larger scale.

The fungi during the last few months was spectacular, a surprising array of shapes and colours and if you went for a walk on Christmas day a heavy frost made it a white Christmas (pictures on our Facebook page).

Just to let us know that Spring is not too far away the first snowdrops have been seen in Price's Dingle.

All welcome to join us at Green Gyms/workdays 2nd Sunday of each month 1.30 to 4p.m. at Colliery entrance and also to our monthly meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month at Community Centre 7.30p.m.

We have a speaker on 10th March Tony Gray who will be talking about all kinds of pollinators - Bumblebees, Honey Bees, Drone flies etc, including solitary and colony bees. 7.30p.m. at Community Centre all welcome.

Information about us and the site can be found on our group facebook page and also on st.martins-online.

St Martins Craft Guild

Since the last report Guild members held their AGM where it was confirmed that the Guild had gone from strength to strength since the move from the Chapter House where it had met since its inception. This was followed by a lunch at the Keys enjoyed by everyone.

The Guild made a presentation to Heather Lloyd of waterproof seat cushions for the wrought-iron seat behind the Ellesmere Road Methodist Church for use in warmer weather. Photographs were also taken of the items knitted and crocheted by members which were to be sent to a charity in Portugal. After they were compressed and packaged for the journey, the woollens weighed 10kg – the compression is because price for the package is partly governed by its dimensions and if left with the air in the price would probably be twice as much.

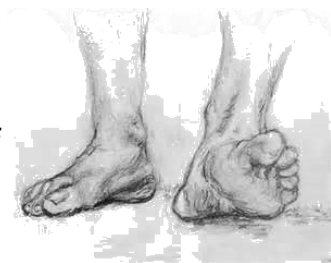


Starting again in January numbers attending seem likely to fluctuate because of the very changeable weather, temperature up but often windy and/or wet or very cold and maybe fine but treacherous underfoot with ice or snow. Still, members can and do still carry on making things for our next charity donation: when things are made for charities the Guild funds the materials, but we are happy if for some of the time people make things for their own use.

Alice Wilding

"Magic Pills": Part 2

The November magazine discussed how the effects of running made a friend think I was taking some "Magic pills". Well I'm not, of course, but I am really noticing the benefits both also in physical and mental wellbeing. This reminds me of the NHS guidance "Five steps to wellbeing" which recommends:



- * Get active
- * Connect with others
- * Keep learning
- * Be aware of yourself and the world
- * Give to others

So -step 1, why not try getting more active: walking to Stan's or along the canal, cycling, even just moving about your own house or garden more? And while you're at it - try the second step "Connect with others". I've found that being outside regularly leads to all sorts of interesting conversations with people I would normally see only out of the car window. It's been fascinating, friendly and fun."

Part 3 in next issue.

WESTON RHYN GARDENERS' CLUB

Sue Beesley, a former BBC Gardener of the Year, from Bluebell Cottage Gardens and Nursery near Warrington, gave an inspiring talk on how she transformed an unloved nursery and garden into a wonderful plant-filled garden with interesting vistas, fabulous specimen herbaceous perennials and beautifully designed borders. All this from someone with no formal garden design training!

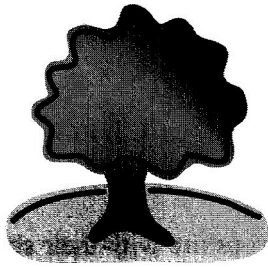
The contrast between the 'before' photographs of the garden and nursery in February 2007, where nothing had been touched for over 6 months (no pruning, clearing, weeding, cutting down etc.) and the 'after' ones taken, following 3 months hard work, in Summer 2007, was staggering. Luckily there were plants in the nursery that could be dug up and divided and spread throughout the garden.

Sue has also designed gardens at Tatton Flower Show and has 'Choice perennials by mail order in ready to plant pot sizes' – a very busy, gifted and knowledgeable gardener.



The Garden Club presented a cheque to a representative of the Quinta Meadows Trust for a tree to be planted near the Almshouses on Bronygarth Road.

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WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BRIGHTON QUIZ?

I am due to complete my Queen's Guide award (highest challenge within Guiding) next September and in order to do this, I am leading an exploration in an area unknown to me and the rest of the group.

I am doing my exploration in March in Brighton and I was wondering if you would be able to help me fund this challenge by completing this quiz for me with a chance of you winning a prize if you get the answers all correct.

It will cost you a £1 a sheet, please pass on to friends and family too.

Thank you

Megan Phillips



QUESTION 1

Where is Brighton?

- South East Eng-land
- North
- South
- East

QUESTION 2

What is Brighton famous for?

- The architecture
- Pebble beach
- Brighton pier
- Brighton wheel

QUESTION 3

What is the chocolatier shop called in Brighton?

- The chocolate shop
- Brighton Chocolate shop
- Choccywoccydoodah
- Chocolate creations

QUESTION 4

What is the comedy club called in Brighton?



- Comedy club
- Brighton comedy club
- Komedia

QUESTION 5

What is the park called in the centre of Brighton?

- Queen's park
- Brighton park
- Hove park
- East park

QUESTION 6

What is an essential to do when visiting the seaside?

- Play with buckets and spades
- Eat fish and chips
- Play in the sea
- Eat ice cream

QUESTION 7

What pub in Brighton is called by an animal?

- Animal pub
- Lion and Lobster
- Dog Pub
- Fish Pub



Cont: QUESTION 8

How long is the pier in Brighton?

- 500 meters
- 524 meters
- 600 meters
- 624 meters

QUESTION 9

What was the clock tower in the centre of Brighton built in commemoration of

- Queen's golden jubilee
- Queen's wedding
- Kate Middleton and Prince William's wedding
- Prince George's birth



QUESTION 10

What road in the centre is the train station on?

- King's road
- Elm Grove
- Sackville road
- Queen's road

Thank you for taking your time to do this quiz, if you could please provide me with your contact details so I can pass on your prize if you win.

Name:

Contact number:

Address:

Happy New Year to all Brownies and parents.

Many thanks to all the parents families and friends that turned up to the Guiding Christmas Carol Service. We made over £60.00 pounds in donations which has been given to the British Legion in this 100 years. Thank you all.

This term the Brownies are working with the Big Local Parishes.

We have a speaker coming in to listen to any ideas (of which there are many) the girls may have and to tell us about the work they do.

The Brownies are invited to an animal themed party by Guides working on their Baden Powell badge.

A wild time will be had by all.

St Martins Rainbows

Working on their festival badge this term and celebrating the Chinese New Year.

If you have girls aged between 5 and 7 years we would like to hear from you as there are now spaces in Rainbows due to the older girls moving up to Brownies. Call 01691778598 or go on line to www.girlguiding.org.uk join us.



Three Parishes Big Local January 2015

Our BIG headlines this month are that we have awarded more Community Chest grants, hosted our first Community event, and that we will be launching credit union services with FAIRshare Credit Union in February 2015.

Our Community Chest panel have approved grants to Gobowen WI towards the cost of a jewellery making course, 2nd St Martins Scouts towards the cost of archery and camping equipment and to St Johns Church towards the cost of chairs and tables for a Community café. There are more grants of up to £500 available for new and established community groups, projects or activities within the Three Parishes Big Local area. Applications forms and full details are available on our website, www.big-local.org, or by contacting the Big Local Co-ordinator.

We organised our first community event on Saturday 15th November – the Big Get Together, which took place at St Martins School Sports Hall. The event was an opportunity for residents to find out about what goes on in the area. We would like to thank all the community groups from St Martins, Weston Rhyn and Gobowen that brought their displays to the event. There were lots of great entries for our “Love where you live” competition and congratulations go to Tilly Manford, Lowri Smith, Kelsey Owen and Sue Barnett who were all category winners. We are planning a second community event for May 2015 – look out for details about the activities and competitions in local press and on local notice boards.

“There will be no risk of exclusion for any reason” is one of the Community aspirations that we are working towards through the Three Parishes Big Local Community plan. Financial exclusion can mean that individuals or families sometimes struggle to make ends meet or to buy essential items. Borrowing from doorstep lenders, payday lenders or loan sharks could seem like the only option, but this can attract high rates of interest and borrowers may end up paying back much more than they borrowed. FAIRshare credit union provides straightforward savings accounts and affordable loans to its members. We are working with FAIRshare to bring their services to our villages by providing a weekly FAIRshare Service Point in each of the three villages of St Martins, Weston Rhyn and Gobowen. Launching in February, residents will soon be able to sign up at one of the launch events or by going along to a FAIRshare Service Point.

The Three Parishes Big Local car share scheme was launched in December. Car sharing is a great way to save money on fuel and parking costs, reduce your carbon footprint and reduce congestion on our roads. You can car share for different reasons and different types of journey, for example:

Getting to and from work
Travelling to an event

Doing the weekly shop
Getting your children to and from school
One off journeys

Be one of the first to sign up at www.shropshare.co.uk. More information about the car share scheme is available on our website, www.big-local.org or by contacting the Big Local Co-ordinator.

What's next for Three Parishes Big Local?

The community projects and activities that we are currently working on include:

- Youth activities in Weston Rhyn
- Basic first aid courses
- Sports and pastimes for the over 50s

The feedback that we received during the Big Local consultation process highlighted that there is a need to improve youth activities, particularly in Weston Rhyn. Our Community and Youth worker, Andy, is planning to canvas the young people of the village to find out what activities, facilities and support they would like to be able to access within their village. To help get this up and running, we are looking for a local volunteer (aged 18+) to spend some time meeting and talking to the young people of the village with Andy. If you would like to be involved and are open-minded, enthusiastic, happy to be outdoors, and have a real interest in the issues affecting young people please get in touch with Andy by emailing info@big-local.org or ringing 01691 656882 during office hours. We will provide access to youth work training for any volunteers for this project if appropriate.

First aid is a simple skill, but it has an incredible impact. We are hoping to arrange basic first aid courses that will be free of charge to residents of all ages in Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn. Please contact the Big Local Co-ordinator and let us know by the end of February if you are interested in registering for a place on one of the courses, or if you are interested in being trained to become a first aid trainer. We will do our best to arrange the days, times and venues of courses to suit as many of the people who register as possible.

Andy, our Community & Youth Worker, is working on a project to develop sports, clubs, hobbies and pastimes for the over 50s in our villages. If you have any ideas about the types of activities that could be set up, please get in touch.

If you have an idea or would like to get involved with 3 Parishes Big Local, to keep up to date with the latest 3 Parishes Big Local news, or for more information,

Contact the Big Local Co-ordinator, Bridget Laraway:

Write to: Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, SY11 1RB

Tel: 01691 656882

Email: b.laraway@qube-oca.org.uk

Check out our website : www.big-local.org

Follow us on twitter: 3PBigLocal

Like our facebook page: 3PBigLocal

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: We are hoping to put on some activities in February half term :
: for children and young people in the three villages. Look out for :
: more details on facebook (3PBig Local) and posters. :
:.....



St Martins FC

St Martins FC currently stand 3rd in the West Midlands League Div II, moving up the division after winning 6 games and losing 1! In the month of October and November 2014 and winning the Team of the Month award for November having played three games and winning three. Having achieved the Team of the Month award the club received a Commemorative Polo Shirt and a manager jacket in recognition of the 125 years of the league.

A race night was held on Saturday 6th Dec 2014 in the Keys and on behalf of the committee we thank John Smout for putting on the race night and providing the equipment and facilities which raised in the region of £600.

Unfortunately the club had three home fixtures in January 2015 which has consumed most of the money ie Referees, Assistants most weeks for the home games, cost £138 per game.

The next fund raiser is a night with Wrexham legend Gary Bennett (aka 'Psycho') at the Keys sometime in February 2015 the tickets will include a buffet and raffle ticket.

The club would like to thank their sponsors without whose support we would not survive. Every week the club run a Super Seven fund raiser, if anyone would like to take part contact the secretary Derek Stokes. The prize at the time of printing stands at £250.

Seek me in the Morning

By Jeanette 12/12/1997

Seek me in the morning
When the day is at its best.
My heart is waiting there for you
If you put me to the test.
There are things I long to tell you
In the stillness of the morn,
To prepare you for the day ahead
That your heart will not be torn
Between what you do and what you say
To those you meet along the way.
So seek me in the morning time
And so with you I'll share
The precious thoughts I have for you
If only you'll be there.



Dance yourself fit this year with Michelle

Wednesday's 7.30pm – 8.30pm,
St Martins Centre.

Brought to you by
Strictly Come Dancing professionals
Ian Waite and Natalie Lowe.

Free session on 4th Feb and 4th March

Learn all the moves from
the Jive to the Rumba,
the Samba to the Tango
No partner required

Only £4

For a workout that's 'strictly' fun
07590 632050

love2danceclasses@hotmail.co.uk

