

What's on in December!

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Tues 5th	WI Sandra Balmer "Glass Artist"	Ifton Miners Institute Lounge	7.30pm
Sun 10th	Green GYM	Ifton Meadows	1:30pm
Tues 12th	Ifton Meadows Management Committee	St Martins Centre	7:30pm
Thurs 14th	Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7pm
Tues 19th	Mark Hignett The Tanat Valley Railway	Probus Comrades Ellesmere	10am
Sat 23rd	Big Local Tea and Cakes	St Martins School	2pm - 4pm

Please let us know the time and date of events in December and January for the next edition of Village Life by no later than **Friday 15th January 2015**

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



St Martins Supporters club are looking for parents of students to join the club. We meet about once a month and discuss current school matters and plan events (such as the Christmas Fayre). If you are interested in becoming a St Martins Supporter then please call Mrs C Ellis or Miss L Devismes on 01691 776500 during school hours.

Walking Bus Welcomes New Passengers!



Mr Hughes, Road Safety Officer, talked to the children about the benefits of joining the walking bus at a recent assembly. Running each Tuesday morning leaving outside Stans at 8.15am, this super scheme enables children to **walk with friends**, develop **road safety skills** and gain valuable **exercise**. Walking Bus 'stops' are also at the Cross Keys Pub and by the garage. Ray has left us with some nice freebies for any new starters. Should your child like a **free place** please complete a consent form available from reception or speak to the Coordinator Mrs N. Williams.



Mrs Rachael Pritchard starts her maternity leave on Monday 16th November. We welcome Mrs Annette Platt who is joining us to cover the maternity leave.

We wish everyone a
ST MARTINS
Happy Christmas and a
CRAFT
peaceful
GROUP
New Year.



Thank you to everyone who attended our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We socialised, we had a brew and we filled our faces with cake! Oh, and we raised **£237!**



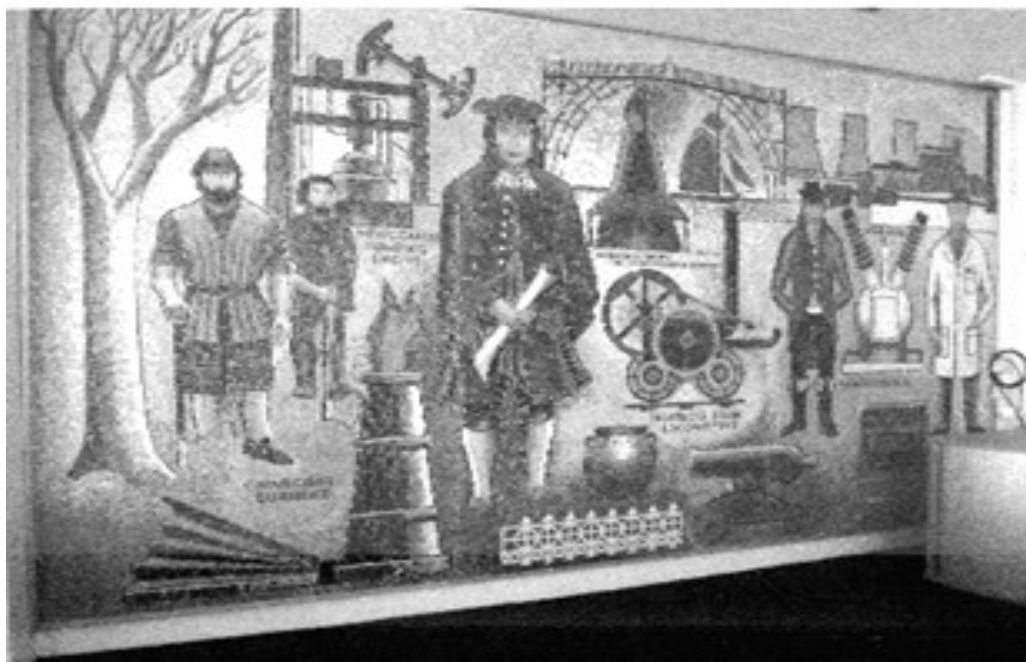
Year 11 Adventurers Bag DofE Bronze Award

We have ten of our year 11 students on the final stretch of their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. The students have been on two expeditions as part of their award - some are looking at progressing to the silver award later this term.

The mural is coming home

Our very own Mrs Ashton helped with the finishing touches of this mural when she herself was in year 7.

40 or so years later, Mrs Ashton, along with Mrs Ellis and two current year 7's, will be preparing to bring it back to St Martins School from Ironbridge Power Station.



Hohoho! Join us at the Christmas Fayre this year and you will have opportunity to **meet Santa**, **play games**, **get your faces painted**, buy **stocking fillers** and stuff your bellies full of festive **food and drink!**

Thursday 3rd December, 3pm-5pm in the Hub *Free entry and parking*

Late bus now picks up at 4:45pm on Mon, Tue and Wed so the following clubs are now on until 4:30 pm:

Mon – Badminton, Rugby & Sports Leaders

Tue – Boys football Wed - Netball



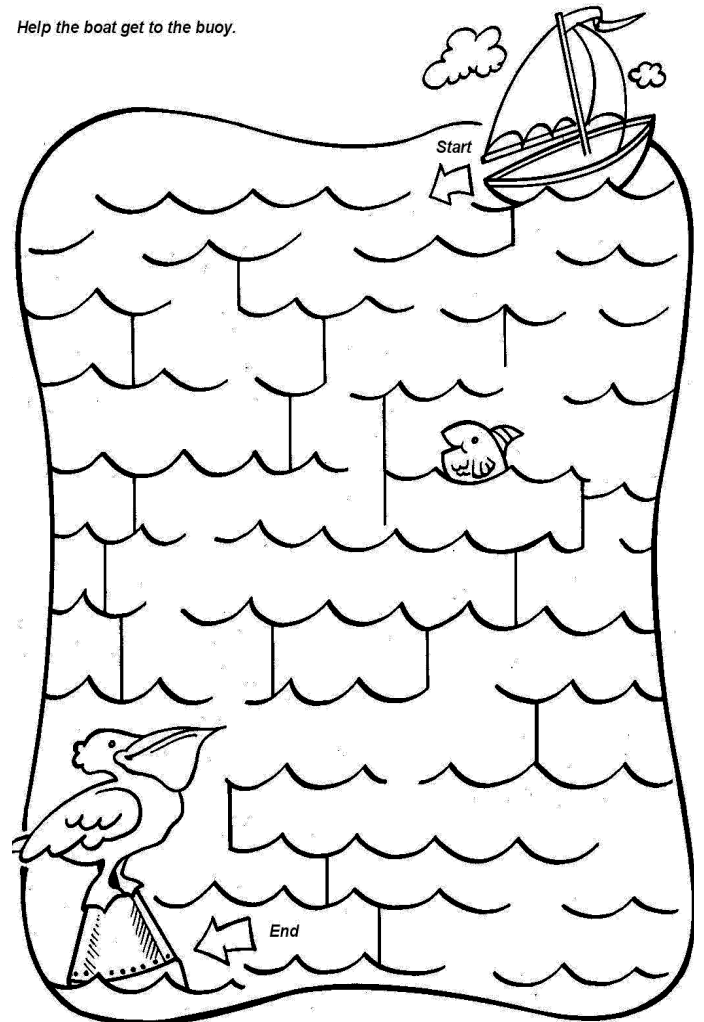
**Autumn Term last day:
Friday 18th December**

**Spring Term starts:
Tuesday 5th January**

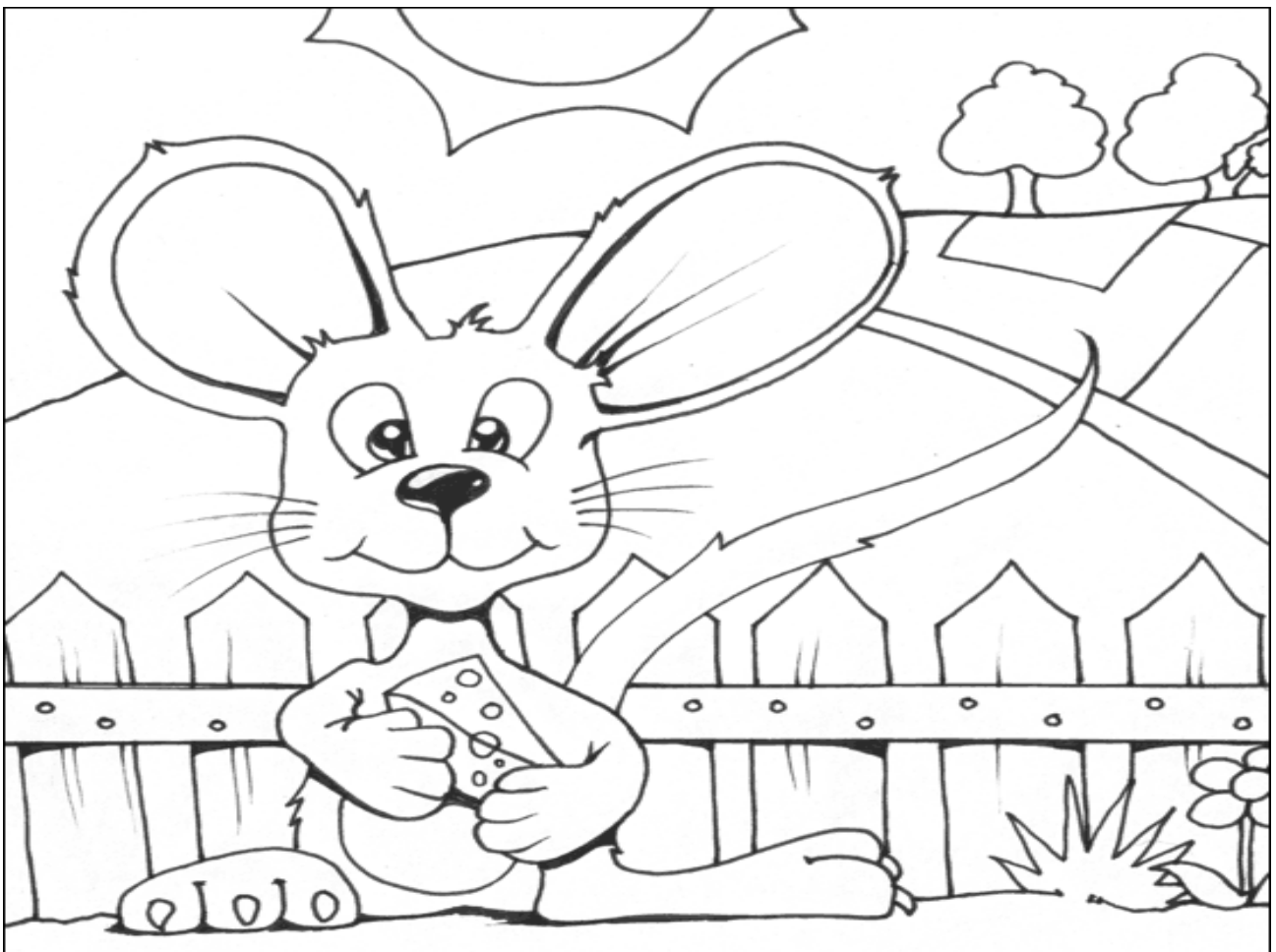


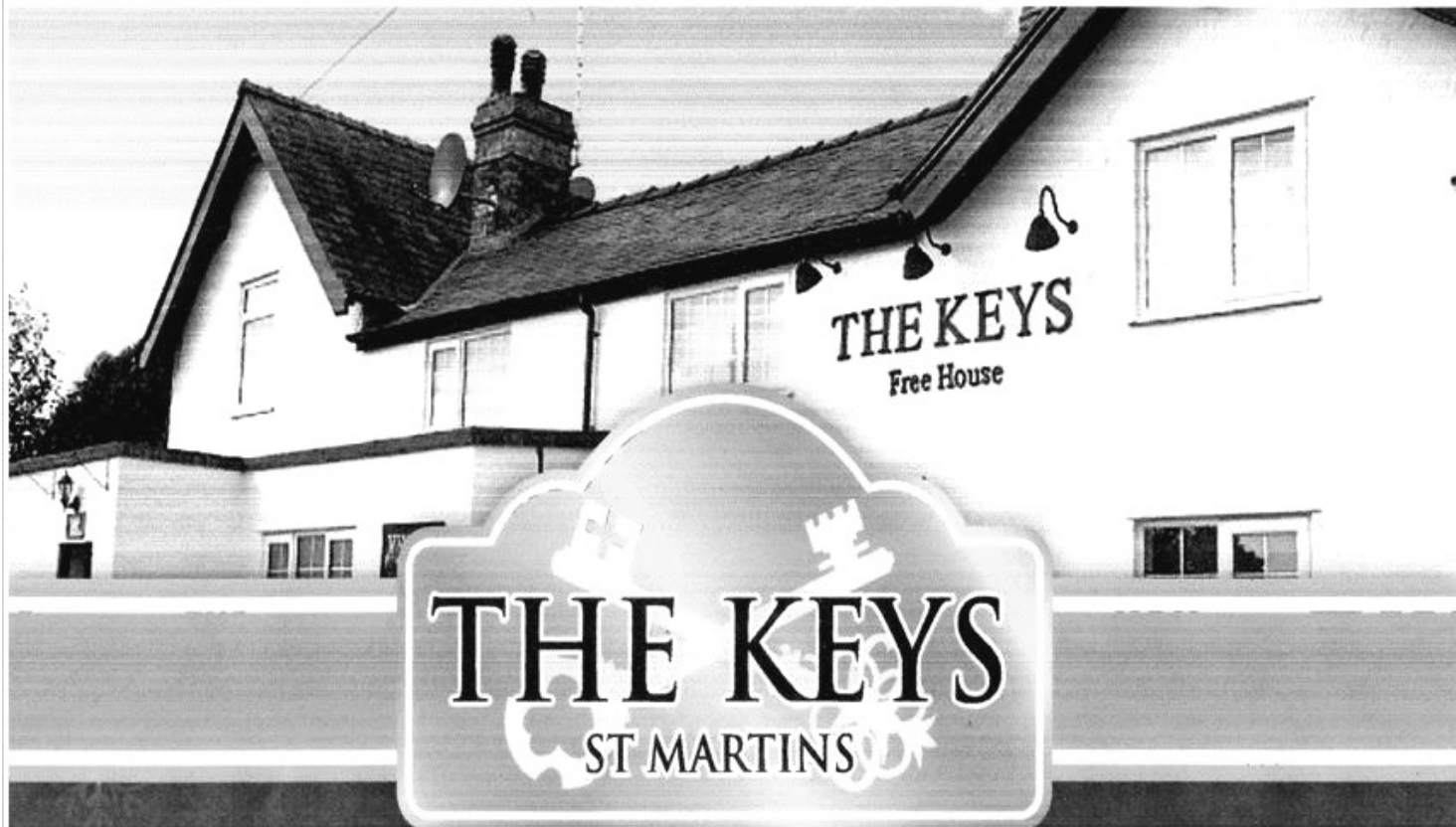
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9					7	4		



Here's a great picture for you to colour





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Food for Thought

We fancied a change from "Pub Grub" this month, so as we hadn't been for a long time we chose Prezzo in Oswestry.

We ordered some drinks and bread and olives as nibbles in order to give us time to peruse the menu. The bread and olives were wonderful but £6.55 for a bottle of Peroni we felt was exorbitant. We expect to pay restaurant prices but!

For starters my wife ordered pulled pork pizzette which is like a small pizza. She found it a bit hot (chillies) for her liking, so I helped her out and found it very nice. I chose baked mushrooms with garlic mayonnaise, again, very nice. For our main course we had Seabass with stir fried vegetables and herbed mash and fusilli rustica with side salad. Both were excellent and just the right portion size. As we had, in effect, had two starters we opted to forgo the dessert menu.

All in all a very pleasant evening at the cost of £56.05

The Foodsmith



Cedar Close Community Room

Weekly Activities

Mon:	10:00 – 11:00 14:00 onwards	Coffee Morning Cards	Tea/Coffee, Biscuits, Raffle & Chat
Tues:	9:00 – 14:30	Age UK	Games, Armchair Keep Fit, Bingo, Handy Craft, Quiz etc.
	19:00 – 21:00	Bingo	including Raffle, tea/coffee
Wed:	14:00 – 16:00	Craft Group	Knit, Crochet etc.
	19:15 – 21:00	Historians	1st Wed of each month
Thurs:	12:00 – 14:00 14:00 onwards	Funday Cards	Tea/Coffee Games, Films etc.
Fri:	10:00 – 11:00	Coffee Morning	Tea/Coffee, Biscuits, Raffle & Chat
Sat:	14:00 onwards	Cards	
	19:00 – 21:00	Bingo	Including Raffle, tea/coffee

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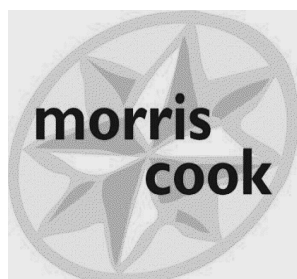
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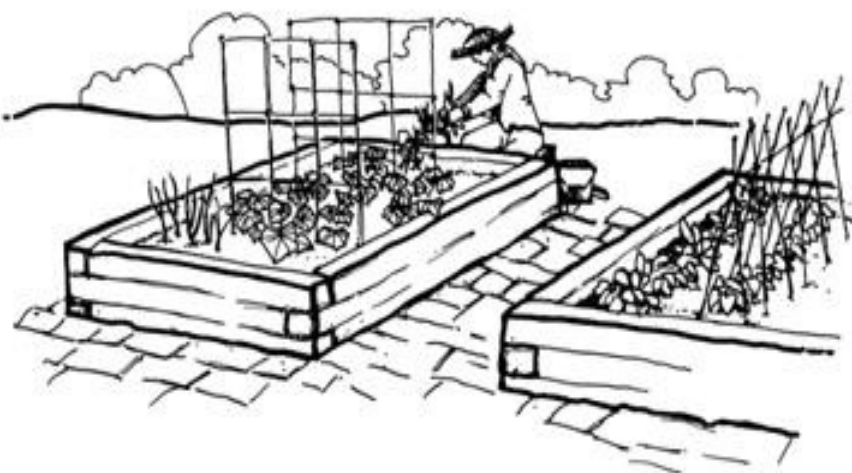


St Martins Allotment Association

The raised beds, which are for the use of disabled gardeners, have fallen into disrepair and are in desperate need of refurbishment. A letter was sent to all allotment holders to form a working party for an all-day Saturday effort to make good the woodwork. This would entail replacing rotten wood and painting the four beds on the inside and outside with wood preservative paint. I had started investigating the amount of deterioration during the week leading up to the Saturday and had decided that only three of the original posts needed replacing, however, further posts were needed to support the sides of the beds.

On the day the working party consisted of James, Tony, Val, Marian, Dylan and Alex. The project being coordinated by myself, though, in truth I was able to work on drilling and bolting the posts while others saw what was needed and carried on removing soil so that the sides could dry out ready for the posts to be driven in close to the wooden sides in four equal places, drilled and bolted through, then painted before the soil could be replaced. This needed to be done on all four beds. No small task. At this point I would like to mention that ETC the local timber merchant has kindly donated the twenty posts that were needed. We would like to thank them very much for their generous donation. At lunch time our heroes were treated to sandwiches, tea or coffee, made by Val, and as Helen couldn't attend, because of work commitment, had sent a very nice cake. After this refreshing break we continued our work with renewed energy until well into the afternoon when Helen and Keith arrived to help. We were all amazed by the end of the day just how much work had been done, so much so that it only took a few hours work by four of us on Sunday morning to complete replacing the soil and raking it over.

I would like to thank all who worked tirelessly to complete this refurbishment in a really friendly and happy atmosphere.
Martyn Barker



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Friends of Ifton Meadows



Chairman's report - November 2014 - 2015

A much quieter year with no Lantern Parade. The amount of time we spent each year on preparation was a lot more than I had ever thought.

We planted wild Tenby and British daffodils at the top of the Dingle in November, 2014 and had a good display in Spring 2015.

Green Gyms this year included monitoring of various species and our thanks to Camilla for sorting and collating them. On the plus side there was very little ragwort to pull this year.

An outing in January to the Hafod nature reserve gave us a few ideas for information panels etc., for our own site.

On 10th March 2015 we held a talk on bees of various types at the Centre given by Tony Gray followed by an evening talk on Fungi on 17th September and a guided walk on 27th at the Meadows by John Hughes, Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Both were very well attended. John sent an email stating that he thought that Ifton Meadows was one of the best sites for Fungi in Shropshire.

Shaun carried out repairs to the fence at the Colliery entrance - we had hoped for a new oak fence but unfortunately the fencing suggested by him did not happen due to cuts in his finances, so repairs were required to make the fence safe. Regarding maintenance by the council we have received complaints from the public including some on our 'facebook' site regarding the skylark mound and surrounding area - they felt and we agreed that this year's cut was excessive and not what we expected. Hopefully next year we will have only a third of the skylark mound cut as recommended by RSPB and that it will not be cut so low.

16th May saw us at the 'Big Local' event in Rhyn Park School followed by a visit to our July meeting by their representative Andy Rimmer. In May Bryan and I both went to Shropshire Wildlife Trust in Shrewsbury to discuss whether or not IMMC/Friends of Ifton Meadows could join as an affiliated member. We then applied to join and have been told that we have been accepted. We are awaiting the official letter confirming this.

Bryan and I joined Sue Schofield, St.Martins Parish Council at Ifton Meadows on 17th August for an 'on site visit' with representatives from the Footpath section of Shropshire Council regarding moving the footpath which goes through the garden which Mrs Lewis has purchased from the council. This was the first we knew that the sale had gone through. We have still not received full notification of the boundaries, access etc.,

Our thanks again to Pentre Nurseries who again supported us by donating £60 from the sale of second hand books and for everyone who has supported us throughout this year in one way or another.

Finally I would like to thank Camilla, Elizabeth, Neil, Roy and Bryan for all the work they do at Green Gyms, Meetings etc.. The Volunteer hours worked by the above and myself between October 2014 to September 2015 came to 369 recorded hours but many more are not recorded.

Green Gym : 13th December, 10th January, 14th February 1.30p.m. at Colliery entrance, (weather permitting)

Meetings: 12th January, 9th February 7.30 p.m. at St.Martins Centre. All Welcome at meeting and Green Gym. Further details on Facebook group - 'friends of Ifton Meadows' or at st.martins-online



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Meetings are held on the first & third Thursday in the winter months & on the first Thursday in the summer months.

All meetings are held at the Comrades Club and start at 1000am, business starts at 1030am

At each meeting we have a Speaker either from the membership or elsewhere.

Visitors & new members Welcome

For further information about the Society please contact the Secretary on 01691 623868 or check out the Website www.probusclubellesmere.com

BOOK CLUB

The recent Book Club meeting was held at Gwyneth's house on Tuesday 10th November.

All who attended had positive comments to make on 'A Leg to Stand On' by Oliver Sack.

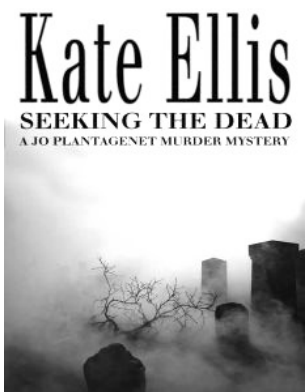
Our Next book choice, made by Jill, is 'Seeking the Dead' by Kate Ellis.

When Carmel Hannessy begins a new job in North Yorkshire, she finds the historic city of Eborby gripped by fear,. A killer is on the prowl - a killer who binds and asphyxiates his victims before leaving their bodies in isolated country churchyards. The press are calling him Resurrection Man.

If you're interested in joining us please call Gwyneth on 01691 770937 or email llswen236@btinternet.com

We will meet to make our comments on 'Seeking the Dead' at Jill's house on December 8th at 7.00pm. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Happy Reading



BANK TOP (follow up)

This is an attempt to fill in a number of pieces of information missing from the article in the September edition of Village Life.

Bank Top was constructed to house P.O.W's in 1943 and was CAMP No. 100. Once the war was over, and the Germans had returned home, the camp was used to house "Displaced Persons" until they could be relocated exactly how long this lasted is not known but the camp lay empty for possibly 5 years during which time it became thoroughly derelict!!

The land on which the camp was built was owned by the late Lord Trevor and after it was no longer required by the MOD the complete site was returned to his estate. Subsequently the late Lord Trevor put it up for sale and it was bought in 1958 and run as a Poultry Enterprise until 1979 when that was no longer viable.

What Happened Next?

Eventually Planning Permission was obtained to convert the units for light industrial use – This was a colossal task!!! New infrastructure had to be installed such as 2 new electrical substations, a new water, telephone and 3 phase electrical supplies taken into the units etc!

However it opened as an Industrial Estate in 1983 with all the units tenanted within 6 months.

The work of repairs and refurbishment continued until 2005 when it was sold to the Brynkinalt Estate as a well presented, clean, tidy and up and running Light Industrial Estate.



The Brownies have been working towards their Friend to animal's badge.

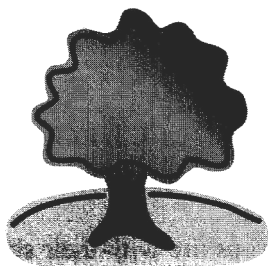
They very much enjoyed Mrs Marina bringing some of her many rescued animals for the girls to see and handled. The chicken was very well behaved as were the guinea pigs, rabbits and dog. Many thanks.

The Brownies have attended the Act of Remembrance held at the Methodist Church Ellesmere Rd. On the 17th of November Brownies have been invited to visit The Oak at Dudleston Heath to see the animals they keep such as turkeys, pig, bantams and other small animals. We will talk about the food they all eat, the bedding and cleaning they

need. They will be able to handle some of them carefully. On the 5th December the Rainbows and Brownies are going to Kidderminster to visit Santa and ride on the Seven Valley Railway. We will also be visiting the Arley Arboretum and completing various trails there. On 8th December the Girl Guides will be holding a Christmas Carol service at the Methodist Church - starting time is 6pm for the girls. All welcome



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Tues	Closed	Closed
Wed	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Thur	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Fri	11:45 - 1:30	5pm - 9:30
Sat	11:30 - 2pm	Closed

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October Meeting

Our October meeting was held on the 6th with Shirley Willis presiding. We first had a talk by Andy Rimmer from the "Big Local" which was set up by "The Big Lottery" fund and is managed by Local Trust. He told us what it was doing in the 3 villages that are involved in it, how various groups had got grants through the "Big Local" and how that money was being used. He asked us to think of any projects that could help our community that the "Big Local" could help with. He distributed leaflets. He was thanked by Shirley Willis. Our meeting then went on to discuss our W.I. newsletter. We had an invitation to Criffins W.I. to an open evening on 13th October. Names were taken for our Christmas meal at The White Lion on 1st December. To date we are doing well selling our new Centenary Recipe book and if anyone would like a copy they can still be had from our president Shirley Willis. Our speaker for the evening was Penny Vingoe who showed us how to make Christmas crackers. This produced some quite good examples and shall we say some more interesting variations. Not naming any names but my effort wont find itself on the Christmas dinner table!!! Anyway we all had great fun doing it. She was thanked by Myfanwy Dulson. The competition for a Christmas cracker motto was won by Pam Doyle, 2nd was Ruth Dean, 3rd was Shirley Willis. The exhibition of a Christmas decoration was won by Sheila Buchanan, 2nd Alice Wilding, 3rd Sue Stevens..

NOVEMBER MEETING

Mrs Shirley Willis presided at our meeting held on 3rd November. We held a minutes silence for our member Sue Stevens who died in October. She was a valued member of our committee. The newsletter was discussed. Members were informed that an allergen poster and form should be displayed in future at events where we sell our own food. The Christmas meal menu was available to choose from. Shirley brought in the wreath that our W.I. will be placing at the cenotaph on remembrance Sunday. There will be 11 people attending the Group Carol Service on the 7th December at Whittington. There was a reminder about the tea party for Contact The Elderly on 29th November. Treasurer Ann Sadler presented the accounts for the year and Secretary Pam Doyle read the report of the years activities. Committee members were thanked for their support during the year. At the AGM Shirley was re-elected as President. All present committee members were re-elected with one new member Barbara Aston being proposed and accepted. Ann Sadler will remain as Treasurer and Pam Doyle will remain as Secretary. The remaining responsibilities were shared out. Our speaker for the evening was Summer Wynne, she demonstrated making a Christmas Wreath. She was thanked by Pam Doyle. We then proceeded to make our own wreaths under Summer's guidance. We were very delighted with how they all turned out. She is a good teacher. I am sure if you saw some of our efforts in a florist they would be asking tens of pounds for them. The competition of a pretty parcel for Dolywern Cheshire Homes was won by Isobel Banham. The exhibition of pretty scarf was won by Alice Wilding. There will be no meeting in December because we have our Christmas meal. Our first meeting will be on 5th January at the Miners Institute lounge at 7.30 pm when our speaker will be Sandra Balmer a 'glass artist'.

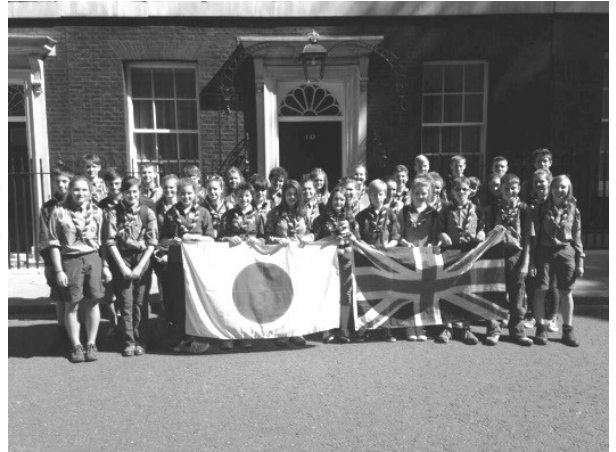


My Jamboree Journey:

This is an account of the amazing journey that I am proud and privileged to have been a part of. It concerns my trip to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan which was held in July of this year. I can honestly say that it has changed my life.

Selection

As the Jamboree only takes place once every four years and since it has limited places due to the sheer number of countries and people taking part a selection must be held to pick the lucky few to make the trip.



My selection was held in November of 2013 in Shrewsbury lasting a weekend. It was action packed and fast with a huge collection of games to test our personalities, teamwork, confidence and many other factors. I am also very grateful to my scout leader Marvin for a fantastic reference. At the end of the weekend all 60 of us were gathered into a group. 18 of us were asked to leave the room and wait out in the corridor. This is when Steve and Lynne, the leaders journeying with us, surprised us by telling us that we had been picked - we weren't expecting to be told straightaway! As I left the hall I remember my head spinning with shock, appreciation and excitement. I also remember my mum thinking I hadn't been selected because I looked like I was about to cry; happy tears though it turned out.

The build-up

After that emotionally draining weekend followed a long 18 months packed full of suspense, fun and new friendships. And of course lots of fundraising and training weekends but we of course managed to make it all a lot less serious than it probably should have been.

During this time I met the entirety of unit 45 which consisted of the 18 from Shropshire, including me, as well as 9 Scouts from Solihull and 9 Guides from the West-Midlands. During this build up there was lot of bag packing in order to help raise £3,500 per person meaning that we all had to give up a lot of weekends and put in a lot of hard work. Amongst all of these there were however camps which is where I had most of my contact with my fellow participants and where they became my friends. These meet ups were always a lot of fun but the one that sticks with me most was our mystery camp where we ended up catching a train to London and visiting Downing Street!

Japan

Finally came the day that myself and the others had all been waiting nearly 2 years for - the day I was going to Japan! The drive down to Shrewsbury was nerve racking but I was so excited I was practically bouncing up and down as I got out of the car and loaded up the mini-bus. After an emotional goodbye we set off for Birmingham and our long, long plane journey; it was about 22 hours!



After what felt like days we arrived in Japan, it was about 45 degrees - HOT! First stop was Yamanashi where we had Home Hospitality which meant that we would be staying with a Japanese family for 2 nights. My friend and I, Will, stayed with the Uno family and had an amazing taste of Japanese food and culture and we even went to see Mt. Fuji.

After that we travelled on the Bullet train (another new experience!) to the Jamboree site, a place called Yamaguchi, to join the other 40,000 participants. The weather was still in the 40's and some days 50's which when you're sleeping in tents and there is no air conditioning is very hot. The entire campsite was miles long and we had to walk everywhere meaning that the showers were probably my favourite place to be especially after the football tournament against all the different countries. Whilst we were on the site I met lots of interesting people from all over the world – some of which I am still in touch with. We also visited Hiroshima which was a very moving experience.

Finally, before returning, we visited Tokyo for 2 days travelling by Bullet train at 500 kilometres an hour. In Tokyo we saw many sites and ate even more great Japanese food; which after the food on camp felt like a gift from God. I even tried out sumo wrestling! With that over we had a long smelly flight home before checking out of the airport and meeting our families again.

My trip to Japan will stay with me forever as one of the most incredible things I will ever have had the privilege of being a part of. I think it has really helped me mature and become more confident, though sometimes my parents may think that that's a bad thing. I am very lucky to have been given the opportunity to go and would like to thank everybody who helped me get there with my fundraising. The next jamboree is in 2019 and located at West Virginia, America. I know that this Jamboree will be just as great as mine and I can't wait to hear the stories of the people who go – hopefully one of the younger scouts from our village will be given the same amazing opportunity I was!

Tommy Pickle



Three Parishes Big Local November 2015

Our BIG headlines this month are that our 2016 calendar is out now and we are holding an event on 23 January 2016.

In an earlier edition of Village Life we announced that we are producing a 2016 calendar showcasing the winners of our “Postcard from my village” competition. This calendar is being delivered to all the houses in the Three Parishes Big Local area by the end of November 2015. If, for any reason, you don’t receive a calendar, please get in touch with us and we will arrange to have one delivered to you.



Join us for tea and cakes at St Martins School on Saturday 23rd January 2016 from 2pm – 4pm. Come along and meet the Partners and staff, find out about all our projects and grants, and let us know what you would like to see happen with the Three Parishes Big Local £1million over the next few years. We have to re-write our plan in summer 2016 and would like to include as many ideas as possible from local residents and groups. Debbie Ladds, Chief Executive of Local Trust, who manage the Big Local programme across England, will be joining us to help celebrate our achievements so far. We will also be running a competition to design a menu for afternoon tea as part of the event. Look out for more details on local noticeboards and on our website in the next few weeks.

FAIRshare Credit Union will be making some changes to their local Service Point times on a trial basis over the next few weeks to find out if different days and times are more convenient for local people. Look out for information about any changes on their website, www.fairshare.uk.com and on local noticeboards. FAIRshare Credit Union offer secure savings accounts and low cost loans, as well as accounts for Community Groups and Business Loans. FAIRshare loans are often far cheaper than many other loan providers. They are a not-for-profit organisation working for the benefit of their members, and are therefore able to offer low interest rates and tailor repayments to suit individual budgets.

Shopmobility gets a boost **from Big Local**

Qube's Shopmobility service has been awarded a £500 grant towards the cost of a new mobility scooter, thanks to Three Parishes Big Local's Community Chest.

The scheme, now in its twentieth year, hires out manual wheelchairs and powered scooters to local people and visitors with limited mobility.

The Qube now has six wheelchairs and three mobility scooters of varying sizes which can be hired for as little as an hour or up to several months at a time.

For further information about Shopmobility call Qube on 01691 656882.



If you have an ideas 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
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