

The Villager

The community magazine for the
parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 21 No. 10

March 2012

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Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of The Villager. The Villager cannot be held responsible for any goods or services advertised in the magazine.

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers meet Church car park

3rd Sunday in the month:

Path-or-Nones meet 9.30am Martley Memorial Hall car park to help maintain the local footpaths

Mondays

Martley Parish Council: 1st Monday in the month 7.30pm in The Library

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling: 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship: 2.30pm

2nd Tuesday in the month (usually)

Martley Toddler Group: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (term time) 10.30am Martley Memorial Hall

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing: 7pm Martley Memorial Hall *Enq.* Jeff & Thelma 01886 821772

Martley Folk Club: 1st Wednesday in the month at The Talbot, Knightwick and 3rd Wednesday at The Admiral Rodney

Martley WI: 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm Heaton House

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

Martley & District Horticultural Society: last Thursday in the month 7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall

See Church Words p. 27 for details of services

See articles for details of special events AND changes of time/date/venue of regular events

See the Diary page on www.martley.org.uk for a complete listing of all forthcoming events (that the Diary page editor knows about)

See page 28 for contact details of organisations

Articles to go in The Villager must be submitted by the 1st of the previous month

Records of the Parish Council meetings in the two parishes are not intended to be full and complete minutes. Minutes of meetings can be seen by contacting the respective Clerks to the Councils.

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



MP's Weekly Advice Surgery **Martley Village Hall, March 30**

Harriett's weekly advice surgery will visit Martley's Village Hall on Friday March 30 starting at 5pm. Constituents can book a place at the surgery by speaking to a caseworker by telephone on 01684 585165. Harriett commented: I try to make sure I am accessible as possible for my constituents and my weekly advice surgeries are held throughout the County on every fifth Friday. This is an opportunity for people to come and talk to me face-to-face and I will do my best to be of assistance. It is especially useful for those who may have difficulty travelling to one of the main towns. For more information please contact Edward Davies, Parliamentary Assistant to Harriett Baldwin MP, Constituency Office: 01684 585165

Martley CE Primary School- Spring Update

Life at Martley is never dull! The

children always bring a surprise to every new day! This term the children have been learning about a variety of topics, including 'People Who help Us', 'Puppets', 'Tanzania'; and 'Transport' and 'Forces'. Our youngest children have been out and about in the village including posting letters at the Post Office. Our oldest children recently had a day in Cardiff, visiting Techniquet Science Centre and also exploring the re-development of Cardiff Bay. They were a real credit, (as usual!), to our school and community. The children have recently been very creative and have been making lots of artistic creations for our newly re-furbished 'Peace Garden'. Creations include artistic fish, a rainbow sculpture and planters from shoes! The grand opening was on Friday 24 February at 2.30 p.m. The children were also lucky enough recently to receive an inspirational assembly talk from Mel Clarke, 2008 GBR Paralympics Bronze Medallist. Her achievements are amazing and we look forward to monitoring her progress later this year! If you would like more information about your local village school then please do look at

our website, www.martley-pri.worcs.sch.uk

Easter Lilies

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of lilies in Church at Easter, in memory of a loved one, donations may be given to Jenny Underhill or Catrine Ball, or alternatively please contact Jenny on (01886) 888306 or Catrine on (01584) 881079. Thank you

Play Area Work Starting in May

Ringway will be commencing work on the base of the games area at the beginning of March-weather permitting. They will be working on this project for around three weeks on Saturdays. This will involve the existing play area fence being taken down. Some areas will be flattened for the new equipment and fences will be erected but care will be needed. Please be patient as Ringway have kindly donated the materials and have given their time free, with some very generous volunteer staff. I hope you will make them welcome and show your appreciation.

Pat Owen

Martley Youth Club

Good news!! Martley Youth club is now up and running. We are now looking for new members and some energetic volunteers to get stuck in! Everyone is welcome to get involved and make this Youth Club something

we can be proud of. For more details please telephone 01886 888406.

What next for the Old Infants School?

We want your ideas please

Keen-eyed residents may have noticed that the Martley Old Infants School on Berrow Green Road opposite the Edgar House industrial estate is no longer being used by as a pupil referral unit. After some fourteen years the property has become available for community use again. The school was given in charitable trust for the benefit of the people of Martley by the Earl of Dudley in the 1890s with the Rector of the Parish as the trustee of the charity. The 1894 brick-built building comprises a reasonably large hall (27ft x 18ft) with high ceiling, a small office and reception area. At the rear stands a large porta cabin suite of five classrooms (ranging from 25ft x 15ft to 12ft x 10ft) with toilet facilities. Off-road car parking for at least ten vehicles is situated next to the buildings and there is a fenced playground, grassed land and a metal storage shed. Subject to planning consents, the hall and classrooms will be available for use by the community and by small businesses. Possible uses might include a pre-school nursery, children's and youth activities, Young Farmers, club and organisation meetings, heritage centre, fitness club, business seminars, micro businesses like catering, IT, consultancy,

counselling or accountancy. The facility will be different to, but complementary with, the Memorial Hall and other units in the village. We are now seeking your ideas on how to use the units for community and business use to the benefit of the village and inhabitants of Martley. Please contact Rev David Sherwin (Tel 888664 or davidwin56@aol.com) or Stuart Smith (Tel 853311 or stuart.smith@ladybuggroup.co.uk) for further information and with your ideas. The trust needs to be self-financing so rental charges will be necessary to cover running costs. The charity may be eligible for grant aid to provide support for community activities. We are also in need of good quality furniture principally tables, chairs, cupboards, a vacuum cleaner and kitchen equipment, including a fridge etc. so if anyone has anything surplus and would like to dispose of it we would like to hear from you also. Finally, a new name for the building is needed. Any ideas readers ?

Martley & District Horticultural Society

Our chairman, Mike Dunnett, wished us Happy New Year at the January meeting, and announced two more members, so our Society is certainly thriving and is excellent value at £6 per year! Mike went on to say that the photography sessions are getting much interest, there may still be places available for the March one. Learning Day (hedge-laying) is another project coming up, this will be carried out on

the Millennium Green. An important annual request, please continue with the growing of your plants to donate to the Plant Sale on 19 May. Mike announced a proposed trip on 18 April to Thenford Arboretum (the home of Lord Heseltine), but the transport is yet to be decided. Mike then gave a short talk and demonstration on pruning and pointed out which month works best for the shrubs and trees involved for this. Dudley Brook of Malvern Hills Conservators was main speaker, and a well-informed and entertaining one he proved to be, showing slides of many different plants, mosses and lichens which grow on the hills. Dudley explained how he acquired a farm in the area many years ago, and it was obvious that he has a deep love of the hills and knows so much about the geology, flora, fauna, paths and secret pools which most people would never learn about. No doubt we shall enjoy a visit over there even more now. The Spring Show will be held on 24 March at Martley Village Hall and on 29 March Margaret Thrower gives her talk 'Three Generations of Gardening'. A very good evening which is not to be missed!

Tina Steele

Martley WI

14 March 7.30pm Heaton House

We have had an enjoyable beading session making necklaces and then learnt about Orkney and that part of Scotland. This month Liz Hughes will be demonstrating Vegetarian Cookery

and how to prepare meals in minutes. Any ideas about producing tasty, quick meals are always welcome. We are always pleased to see anyone who would like to join us for the evening or for longer. The competition this month is for a Spring Flower Arrangement. Various outings are currently being arranged, including theatre trips, an Aga cookery demonstration and also the possibility of informal meetings for coffee. These are in addition to our County events. Poppy is our outings secretary so she is the one to be contacted for more details. We do have a new member, Charity Charlie who may be male, but has been warmly welcomed to the Group. Steady there, don't get too excited folks – Charlie is a large attractive money box and welcomes any spare change which will be distributed to approved local charities at the end of the year!

Kate King

Martley Ramblers

11 March 2pm Church car park

The very enjoyable January walk in the Wyre Forest was on a sunny day and dry underfoot, quite a surprise for midwinter. Thanks to Pam Bowers for planning and leading this lovely walk. Richard and Pauline have been busy with final arrangements for the 2012 programme and organising our annual dinner. This month they will be leading around Bromyard Downs which is an area with some quite hilly bits, so if anyone is wondering about the grading/difficulty of the walk,

please contact Richard a week before the walk.

Kate King

Pudford Lane Tweets

Springtime and lambs are arriving, birds tweeting and nesting and so much is happening in the fields and woodland. No sign of the dreaded Pudford Glacier at the time of writing, but there is still time. It was lovely to see Jamie performing in *The Prince and The Pauper* and we hope the fetching and carrying was not too stressful for parents. Thanks to Janet Dale and the Parish Council who have tried to do something about re-naming Hillend Bridge Lane. MHDC state they are unable to do anything. Ted Davis, who was postman in the area for many years, says he always knew it as Hillend Bridge Lane but the vehicles keep arriving, looking for correct dropping off places for post and parcels. One resident has suggested setting up a local stall to sell the goods delivered in error - what a good idea, so watch this space!! Perhaps a sign should be erected similar to some in Ireland saying, WRONG ROAD, TURN BACK!

Kate King

Teme Valley Geological Society

We kicked off 2012 with a remarkable and chilling talk by Professor Donny Hutton on his visit to Antarctica. On 22 February we welcomed Chris Darmon who talked on *The Pre Cambrian and Lower Palaeozoic*

basement rock of the Midlands and on Wednesday 26 March Dr Ian Sutton's talk is titled The Yellowstone Mega Volcano and the venue for this will be Martley Village Hall at 7.30pm. As always everyone, including interested youngsters are very welcome to join us. Booking is not necessary and there will be a small charge for non TVGS members. Wine and refreshments will be available. With longer days and warmer weather on the way, we shall be doing field trips and visits to geologically interesting venues. We envisage car sharing or hiring transport if appropriate so no need to worry if you do not have your own vehicle. Any queries or questions? Then please give us a ring on 01886 888382.

HH

Baptisms

Lily Caitlin Taylor on 15th January 2012 at St Peter's, Martley

Francesca Mae Stephens on 15th January 2012 at St Peter's, Martley

In Memoriam

George Arthur Pugh who passed away on 19 December 2011. George's funeral and burial were held at St Peter's, Martley on 17 January 2012

Martley Spurs Football Club Update Jan 2011

January started with a hard fought match resulting in a loss to Powick FC in the Nursing Cup. This was followed by a 3-3 draw with Collwall St James and a 3-0 win against New AFC

Barboure. We haven't lost a league match yet this season and we are placed as 2nd in the Sunday 1st Division at 30 January 2012. Training sessions are held on Friday evenings at St Johns Sports Centre, new players are more than welcome to join us, please contact Simon Rawle on 07971 264107 for more details

M Gardner, Secretary

A Loving Tribute

My husband, Richard Hassell sadly passed away suddenly on 21st December at home in Mortlake Drive, Martley and I would really like to thank my family, friends and neighbours for the help and support which they have given to me and my two daughters.

Richard Hassell, 1965 - 2012

My husband sadly passed away suddenly at home on 21st December. Richard was 46, fit and healthy. It was a great shock to all family and friends. We held a service of celebration for Richard at St Mary's Church, Kempsey, where a 450 strong congregation, young and old, came to celebrate Richard's life. This was very overwhelming for us all. Firstly, I would like to thank the Martley and Hallow Bell ringers for ringing at the church and also, thank you to all neighbours and friends in Martley and surrounding villages, for the support over the last few weeks. Richard is and always will be missed by myself and our daughters.

Sheila, Emily and Charlotte Hassell

Martley Amateur Dramatics

As you will probably know, the Panto, The Prince and the Pauper took place after the deadline to be included in February's edition of Villager so we will talk about it now! After the final dress rehearsal there were a few doubtful faces but the old saying it'll be alright on the night, came true! The production was a resounding success and the whole cast really got it together, from the old stagers to the youngest children their enthusiasm really came across. A special mention should go to Fin and Josh Baxter who carried the main roles so well. The audience did pretty well also (Oh yes they did!) their participation was loud and clear! Thanks also to the parents of the children for their help and support; they did a great job keeping them amused between scenes etc. The general feeling seems to be that this was the best yet, so we must be doing something right! Also there were comments on the wonderful period costumes and how nice the cast looked. This means that we have a lot to live up to for our Panto next year! The donation from the proceeds this year will be £500 to the Nora Parsons Day Centre. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our success. Our next production is already in the planning stage and we hope to do a short play around June or July so please watch this space for news! In the meantime, we have two sessions coming up for our Mad Kidz, age 8 - 14 years, these will be a week at Easter, April 9-13 and one in the summer July 30 -

August 3. Both weeks will be 9am until 5pm and will cost £75 per week. Bookings are already being taken so anyone interested in joining either one or both sessions, or need further information on this School for Performing Arts, then please contact L o u i s a W i l d e at martleydramatics@hotmail.co.uk, both weeks will culminate in a free performance for parents and friends. Thank you for your continued support, without you we wouldn't exist.

Martley Parish Council Minutes

Abbreviated Edited Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6 February 2012

All Councillors were present plus District Councillor B Williams, the Clerk and 4 members of the public.

Democratic Period/ Public Question Time

The Clerk was thanked for her attempts to acquire a road sign for Hill End Bridge Lane.

District Cllr Williams spoke about an LGA Focus Forum being held on 21 February at the Council House in Malvern. She agreed to forward information to the clerk to progress. She asked when the Parish Council would be in a position to submit their formal response to the SWDP. The Chief Executive is making a Ward visit and after discussion it was agreed she would include Longside Radio in the visit. She reminded Council about the Ward fund of £1,000 and the Clerk offered to contact the Youth Club that

is in the process of being set up about this funding.

County Cllr Davies reported on the Highways Forum Meeting he had attended recently. There was an indication that Lengthsman funding may increase in 2012-2013 and the point was made that the Lengthsman remit needed to be widened. This will be reviewed. With regard to possible Community Transport he asked that need was identified. This is ongoing.

Planning

11/01530/FUL Conversion and extension to facilitate one work/live unit at Willow Road, Martley.

Application refused.

11/01702/LBC and 11/01613/HOU – The Barton, Berrow Green, Martley, Worcestershire. Application Approved

Progress Reports

Drains: at Taylors Yard, We are awaiting final testing by Aqua Cleansing, Hillside. This work is now completed.

Hillside sign. Ongoing.

Trees on Millennium Meadow, The Trust's reply was read out. It was agreed that District Cllr Williams would speak with the Chairman of the Trust.

Trees on Church Lane. WCC have inspected the trees and said that no further work was necessary.

Blocked Gully, Berrow Green. This has been reported to WCC and is on a 4 weeks works order for repair.

Bus Shelter Proposal. Permission to erect the shelter has been received from Festival Housing and the Council have agreed to their points. After

further discussion it was agreed to try to locate a bus shelter locally and Cllr Goodyear agreed to undertake this.

Discretionary Rural Rate Relief

The application was read out and Council voted on the 3 available proposals. It was unanimously agreed to grant the relief and make the contribution of £238.41.

Clifton upon Teme Brownies

The Brownies have celebrated their 40th anniversary and have requested some funding towards a new flag. As children from Martley attend the Brownies it was agreed to fund 50% of the cost.

Diamond Jubilee

Discussion took place about the lighting of a Beacon. As there are problems with the current Beacon and health and safety issues with people using Berrow Hill at night time it was decided that no Beacon would be lit. All the groups in the village will be contacted again and a meeting arranged to move the plans forward. Cllr Gardner will represent the Council on this working party.

Finance

The payments as circulated were unanimously approved and payments made to the value of £519.32.

Correspondence:

MHDC Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. After discussion it was agreed to nominate the difficulty in Parish Councils communicating with WCC and MHDC via The Hub.

Draft Local List Supplementary Planning. Councillors had reviewed this document and it was felt that it

was very difficult to comprehend and that this should be fed back in the reply to them.

An email had been received from a Parishioner requesting an allotment. This was noted.

Lengthsmans Duties

The Clerk reported that some budget (£575) can now be carried forward.

Clear the ditch opposite Hillend Sawmills, clear the footpath behind the wall on the school route and clear grips opposite "Hipplecote". It was also agreed to use some budget to allow hedge trimming on Church Lane and opposite the Crown Public House car park.

Councillor's Reports

Cllr Baxter's report on the MRA AGM was read out. Cllr Cumella reported that the Planning working group would be ready to report to the April meeting. Cllr Nott asked about the situation at High House, this is currently ongoing.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday March 5 in Martley Library.

Janet C Dale 7 February 2012

Parents-to-Be and Antenatal and Postnatal Support in the Teme Valley area

The Teme Valley Children's Centre will be holding our next Parents-to-Be sessions at Clifton-upon-Teme Village Hall on 14 March (9.30am-1pm) and 21 March (9.30am -12pm). These sessions are invaluable to help prepare for the arrival of your new baby and they form part of our Teme Valley

antenatal and postnatal support which includes our free weekly Bumps to Babes sessions. Expectant parents and those with babies up to 12 months old are welcome each Monday morning at the Tenbury Pump Rooms from 10am until 11am and each Thursday morning in Clifton-upon-Teme Village Hall from 10am until 11am. Bumps to Babes is an ideal opportunity to meet other parents in the area. We have a varied programme of speakers and activities planned each term and a member of the Children's Centre staff is always present offering additional support or information as required. The Children's Centre is focused on tailoring its services to meet the needs of parents within the Teme Valley area. We recently held a parent's forum to obtain your views as to the services offered. We are always keen to encourage feedback and participation from as many families as possible in the Teme Valley. If you would like to 'have your say', join the forum or just find out more information about the Children's Centre please see our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/temevalley, call us on 01886 812982 or email us on teme.valley@barnardos.org.uk. Our small, friendly team of staff would love to hear from you.





Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



Easter Lilies

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of lilies in Church at Easter, in memory of a loved one, donations may be given to Jenny Underhill or Catrine Ball, or alternatively please contact Jenny on (01886) 888306 or Catrine on (01584) 881079

Thank you

Wichenford 100 Club

Our lucky winners in the February draw were, 1st ticket number 177, Mick Harris, 2nd ticket number 183, Jane Hill and 3rd ticket number 120 Mr Catmur. Congratulations to all our winners. The draw was made by Lydia Corbett

Clair

Ernest Ralph Oliver

11.10.1911 – 10.7.2011

(Throughout his life known as Ralph)
It was a chance meeting with a friend of a friend that I was able to find out

about the life of Ralph Oliver, a past resident of Wichenford. We had failed last year to come up with any information about his life when we tried to write an obituary, but thanks to his relatives, we have the following tribute to him. Ralph was born on 11 October 1911 at St George's Lane, Worcester. He grew up in Worcester and his first marital home was also there. Eventually, he and his wife bought a plot of land at Witton Hill, Wichenford and then built their home where they spent many happy years. Sadly his wife became ill and Ralph nursed her for many years. Ralph had many and varied jobs and for 10 years was postman, using his own car covering the Wichenford, Kings Green and Monkwood Green area. He also spent part of his working life as a full-time religious teacher. He became disenchanted with the Church of England and started attending the Pentecostal Church from the age of

17. While he was at Witton Hill he held religious meetings which continued when lack of mobility forced him to move back to the Oliver family home in Worcester. He was delighted that Wichenford members continued to attend his meetings in Worcester and it was with great regret that he had to discontinue the gatherings because of his failing health. (He was totally embarrassed when he fell asleep during one meeting!) Sadly Ralph passed away three months before his 100th birthday. Ralph had a great interest in charities and helped many of them at home and abroad. Our thanks must go to Ralph's cousin for providing such an insight into a truly memorable life.

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Unapproved draft Abbreviated Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 30 January 2012 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Democratic half hour-public question time.

The Chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about parish business. Karen Humphries came to talk to the Parish Council about access to rural services. The Government have been allocating money to deprived urban areas until it was realised that rural areas are being penalised as they have the same

issues. The Rural Strategy is a commitment to help people in rural areas. Village Wardens are people from the village who are paid by various organisations and work in their local community using a wide range of knowledge and training to help people become independent and remain in their own homes. They can collect prescriptions, shop, walk the dog or call to make sure you are ok and organise transport to hospital or other vital appointments. Worcestershire is the only county that doesn't have a warden scheme. From spending time at the Day Centre and with Jennifer Whittaker one of the things that has come to light is that transport in the area needs improving. Questionnaires were left with the Council to pass on or complete by the 31 March when the survey ends.

District and County Councillors Report

District Councillor Williams reported that £1000 has been awarded to spend in the next 15 months. County Councillor Davies reported that the Lengthsman scheme has been discussed. It is working very well and it is recommended to increase the amount given. The contract given to the Lengthsman by the County restricts what can be done as the Parishes would like him to do more, but this will be reviewed. General funding has been reduced but the government has given £14.2 m for Highways projects. There will be improvements to Foregate Street Station and the Malvern Link station.

The majority of the money will go on the Southern Link which runs at 120% capacity. Roundabouts are going to be improved and a new roundabout is going to be put at the Ketch island.

Progress Reports

Highfields (sign)

A reply has been received from the CC. The Clerk has written to the Highways Department and asked if the sign that has been placed without any knowledge could be either removed or relocated. The Clerk is awaiting a reply. The request for a 'Highfields' new sign has been approved and a fingerpost will be put on the B4204 at the junction with Barbers Lane and at the Kings Green junction with Poplar Road, this work is scheduled in the new Financial year.

Highfields

A letter has been sent to the Electoral Department at Malvern Hills regarding the confusion of properties at Kings Green and Highfields. This has now been passed onto the street naming and numbering department. A reply has now been received which has stated that this must be referred to Martley Parish Council as it falls within their remit.

Peg House Wood

The Clerk has spoken to the owner who will do the work in the summer when the nights are lighter as he needs to hire the equipment, and can only do it on a Sunday.

Planning

Mayfly café

Various people have approached the Council with concerns regarding the

premises licence for the Mayfly café at Cob House Fisheries. The hearing is on the 8 February at 10.30am. The Chairman has sent in representations with the views of Parishioners only.

Applications considered since the last meeting

12/00011FUL Cob House Fisheries

Change of use of land to mixed leisure and recreation use for the purpose of keeping animals for the enjoyment of visitors. (Retrospective)

The comments for this planning application were returned 22 January 2012. Comments were made by Councillor Britten-Long, Councillor Panton, Councillor Rendall, Councillor Randall, Councillor Woodward and Councillor Wells. No site visit was needed and the application was passed amongst the Council.

Applications approved, refused, withdrawn

None.

Applications to be considered

Application Number 12/00033/HOU.

Detached double timber clad garage at Kenswick Mill Barn.

The Parish Council discussed this application and have no objections to the proposal.

Application 12/00006/HOU

Proposed carport to the stables at Allsetts farm.

The Parish Council discussed this application and have no objection to the proposal.

Finance

The balance from 1 December-30 December 2011 stands at £16,355.75

It was agreed that £24 could be paid to a contractor for the removal of brash with the help of the footpath wardens in Rosses Green Lane.

Wichenford Churchyard

It was agreed at the meeting to grant £500 to the above.

Strimmer

The Parish Council have given the go ahead for this request from the Parish Paths and it is in the hands of Martley Path or Nones.

Memorial Hall Grant

It was decided at the Parish Council meeting that the Council would rather purchase the central heating boiler and radiators for the Memorial Hall than to provide a grant. A cheque was written for £1183.20 for the radiators. The invoice for the boiler was not correct so could not be paid. It will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Lengthsman

There is some extra money in the Lengthsman budget for the Parish Council to spend on local highways. Councillors were asked if they could think of anything that needs doing. It was suggested that a drain at Colketts Farm needs jetting, and to ask if some litter picking could be undertaken as Castle Hill to Cob Fisheries is particularly in need.

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas

It was reported that the felt on the bus shelter has blown off. Councillor Wells agreed to replace it. The Clerk questioned the election of officers for the Memorial Hall at the APM/AGM. The Chairman agreed to look into this

and report back to the Clerk.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

This was discussed at the meeting and it was agreed that the Parish Council would not undertake this on the Millennium Green. It was the majority view that as it is a long weekend a lot of people will probably be away. Although there was a lot of enthusiasm there are no guarantees that people would be available to help on the day. As it is very near to the fete it was felt that the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations could be combined. It was agreed that the Parish Council would speak to the Fete Committee to investigate whether they could help them in some way by providing a pig roast or bouncy castle. It was reported that there is light pollution at Colketts Farm. The Parish Council will monitor this and if it continues will speak to the people concerned.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Meetings were arranged for 5 March, 16 April (Annual Parish Meeting) and the 28 May (Annual meeting)

All our meetings are held in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford at 7.30pm, except the Annual Parish meeting which will start at 7.45pm.

Hello and Welcome

Hello to you all. Nibs and I would like to welcome you all to the new look Masons Arms. We took over The Masons Arms from Andy and Suti on February 6 and had our first open day

on Sunday 12 February. Personally, we have been managing pubs for over 12 years, including pubs in Soho and more recently Haslemere in Surrey where we were for the last 5 years. After having our 3rd child we decided it was time to return to Worcester where we are both originally from. Our opening day didn't go without a few 'teething' problems and half way through our first day trading the LPG gas ran out, something we're not used to not having lived in the countryside before! We now have a full tank of gas, so we can assure you we are fully operational! We will be open 7 days per week, will offer a wide range of traditional pub grub including homemade beef burgers, sausage and mash and freshly battered fish and chips. Along with our regular menu we will have Tapas Style Bar Snacks including whitebait, salt and pepper squid, battered black pudding and chicken goujons. Each dish is £3.95 or you can choose any 3 for £10. We also cater for families and children with our children's menu and very unique 'Kids Corner' which is an area which has toys for younger children and a DVD player showing children's movies. For the older children and adults we have a games cupboard with a variety of board games to keep everyone entertained. We really are looking forward to meeting you all very soon at The Masons Arms. We would also like to thank all the locals we've already met who have been amazingly supportive and welcoming.

Laura and Nibs

Steam Train Trip

I am currently organising a coach trip to visit Tyseley (Birmingham) a lovely Steam Railway Museum for an open day on Saturday 23 or Sunday 24 June. If there is enough interest then the only cost would be a coach fare. The museum is great and there are several steam engines and these will be providing short train rides. If anyone is interested in going along, then please call Neil on 01886 888513. I am currently a volunteer Steward on some of the main line steam trips too!.

Neil Stammers

Engagement

Mrs Margaret Rushgrove is pleased to announce the engagement of her only daughter Juliet to Eddie John. Congratulations and love and best wishes from all the family.

Margaret Rushgrove.

DVD for Dementia Appeal

Would you like to find entertainment suitable for your loved one with Dementia?

We all need human interaction to enrich our lives. People with dementia, however, have needs which are not currently met by mainstream entertainment. My mother suffered from Alzheimer's for many years and I struggled to find suitable sensory stimuli to entertain her. Due to the nature of the illness, it is often difficult and frustrating for sufferers to watch normal television. As a result, I often dreamed of creating a musical programme designed specifically for

dementia sufferers. Since 2007, the English Symphony Orchestra has been performing Concerts in Care Homes and Hospices as part of their work in the community. The first time I attended such a concert, I was incredibly moved by the inspirational interaction between the musicians and the residents. Watching musicians having fun, taking pleasure in performing and interacting with each other can generate tremendous enthusiasm and happiness as well as providing 'company'. It was clear to me that the musicians touched the souls of vulnerable people in a very special way. Commenting after the concerts, Stephen Warner (double bass) remarked "*We give lots of concerts yet I think our performances in care homes are the only situations where we genuinely make a difference to somebody's life.*" Graeme Adams (oboe) said "*We had a 90 year old gentleman singing along to Cath Handley's 'Danny Boy' and saying it reminded him of war time colleagues. I nearly lost it!*" I thought, then, that if we were to pre-record these concerts, we could offer DVDs to each home we visit, thereby extending indefinitely the experience and memory of the concert. Having discussed the project with dementia support professionals, we have received overwhelming confirmation that access to such a resource would be invaluable. We have therefore decided to put on a Charity Fundraising Concert on Tuesday 27 March 2012 at Croome Court,

Worcestershire, during which we shall record performances by all of our existing ESO Ensembles. This will be made into a DVD which will be distributed to care homes as a memento of our concerts. It will also be made available through our website www.eso.co.uk for the benefit of individuals who are suffering from dementia and cognitive difficulties. I am very excited about this project as it is a cause extremely close to my heart. The total cost of recording and producing the DVDs will be in the region of £5000, so I am writing to ask if you would like to make a donation to help us fund, not only this project, but also the cost of putting on more concerts in care homes.

Mary Stevens

Publicity Consultant & Concerts in
Care Homes Co-ordinate
01886 821856

Fruit Trees for Worcestershire 2011 -2012

In an attempt to promote and prolong our traditional Worcestershire apples, pears and plums Worcestershire County Council is working in partnership with Walcot Organic Nursery to grow locally distinctive varieties of fruit trees for you to plant in your garden, field or orchard. To find out more or to request a leaflet please email communitygreenspace@worcestershire.gov.uk or call the Worcestershire Hub on 01905 76 64 93 . Thank you

Heather

Business Focus of The Month

IT Response, Wichenford

Stewart Braznell is the Managing Director behind Advance IT Group and lives in Wichenford with his wife Helen and two daughters Sophie and Mille and has had his own business since the early 1990's. The buzz of owning your own business and creating software and products that



solve people's problems keeps us motivated and we were actually devising software solutions to problems that we knew businesses were encountering. Stewart's self motivation comes from creating a successful business, going into the office each day and taking a step forward. Leading your team in the direction you want to take is one of the best feelings you can have and creating new products and building a good solid team around you give you a great deal of business satisfaction. We work with all sizes of business, including some of the biggest companies in the world and find when working with small / medium businesses they are often open to a direct, no-nonsense approach and welcome the fact that you might

challenge the idea that the customer is always right. Corporate and multinational companies require more diplomacy and respect for their structure and procedures whilst maintaining a professional relationship with each individual involved regardless of position. What makes our business fundamental to any company is the unique way in which we can understand the needs of a company, and adapt our products to suit. When I think about it, I am surprised that I've managed to juggle a growing business and a growing family with many hobbies and interests each of which give me great satisfaction in their own ways, added Stewart. There is no doubt that tablet and iPad technology will become more widely used as the device for field operatives. They are proving to bring major efficiencies to all types of organisations and that is why we promote their use through our Mobile products and App developments. Advance IT's designers and programmers create software and apps for computer, mobile and the Internet for small concerns to multinational businesses and the Public Sector. Our wealth of experience applies to any industry or organisation. For more information please contact The IT Group on 0121 501 2288 or visit their website www.advanceitgroup.co.uk

In the Garden



March 21 is the first day of Spring, but this can be a tricky month as far as the weather goes; we get sunshine on one day and hard frost on the next. So, make the most of the sunny spells. Time to look at your lawn! If you didn't rake off the moss and debris last autumn it needs to be done now. It is also a good time to reseed any bare patches. You will probably start mowing later this month, once the growth has started and also think about applying a lawn fertiliser. The soil should be warming up and if you are intending to plant vegetables you can help things along by covering the soil with cloches, or sheets of black plastic for one or two weeks beforehand. You can start planting your early potatoes, onion sets, broad beans, lettuce and spring onions. Indoors, start off tomatoes, peppers and courgettes from seed, but if you only want a few plants and are not looking for particular varieties there will be plenty of plants available in May, (don't forget the Martley Plant Sale on May 19!). In the flower garden it is time to finish off pruning willow, dogwood, buddleia, hardy fuchsias and roses. Look out for

summer-flowering bulbs, lilies, dahlias, alliums and camassia and plant in compost with added grit to improve drainage. Divide and replant perennials such as day lilies, asters, mint and chives, while the plants are still dormant. Last summer was very dry, so if you can, find time now for some soil-care. The aim is to help your soil hold moisture, left bare it very quickly dries out. You need to apply a mulch, about 2" depth of compost or rotted manure or chipped bark. This is best done this month, on soil which is damp and free of weeds. The same applies to pots, and a topping of grit will prevent water collecting around plant stems and causing stem-rot. For a display of spring flowers visit Martley Horticultural Society Spring Show on Saturday March 24 in Martley Village Hall.

Date for your Diaries

Sunday March 18 2012





Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

During this month we will celebrate



Mothering Sunday which dates back to the time when people who were 'in service', just like those in

Downton Abbey and less grand places, would be allowed to go home to visit their families and at the same time take them a *simnel cake* which was a cake that reminded them of Easter to come. In going home they would also be able to visit their 'Mother Church' and attend services with their family. This was particularly relevant where smaller churches had been built by larger churches in the area that were regarded as the 'Mother Church'. However, this dates back further to the idea of the church which Jesus initiated after his death when he promised he would send his spirit upon us which would bring birth to the church. Over the centuries it was likened to a 'mother' because it took care of Gods people on earth. Prior to this when Jesus was on the cross he looked upon his mother Mary and to the young disciple John, knowing that they would need each other. And from the cross he would say to John "behold your Mother" and to Mary "behold your Son", helping

them to realise that they were now part of the bigger family, the family of God, and needed each other. I am often asked, "do I need to go to church to be a Christian?", or more likely to be told "I don't need to go to church to be a Christian." Well, it's only part of the story, for if we are to take seriously the notion that Jesus portrayed during his suffering on the cross, that we have become a family, then we need each other. Mothering Sunday is a great way of reminding ourselves that as a mother cares for her children, and as children love their mothers, so too we are to love one another and we need one another. And as the family of God, the Church, just as you would meet with your mother on Mothering Sunday, we need to meet together too. May you enjoy Mothering Sunday, and if for some, it is a sad day because you remember a mother who may no longer be with you, may you find the comfort of being part of a wider and larger family. May we celebrate the care of our mothers and those who are like mothers to us, and the care of God through the church, who as it is said in scripture 'gathers us to himself as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings.'

David Sherwin

Friday 2 March	10.30am Women's World Day of Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Sat 3 March	8.00am Ladies Prayer Breakfast at the Cob House please contact Trish Collett on 812204 or patricia_collett@hotmail.com
Sun 4 March	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary & St Andrew, Knightwick 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.30am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mon 5 March	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tues 6 March	10:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Sun 11 March	8:00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10:30am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 10:30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 10:30am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tues 13 March	10:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 14 March	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Sun 18 March	Mother's Day 8:00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 9:00am Morning Prayer for Mothering Sunday, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10:30am Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10:30am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday, St Peter Martley 3:00pm Evening Worship for Mothering Sunday, St Mary & St Andrew, Knightwick 4:00pm Family Worship for Mothering Sunday, St Laurence, Wichenford
Mon 19 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tues 20 March	10:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Sun 25 March	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.30am Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
Mon 26 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tues 27 March	10am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 28 March	9.30am Broadwas Primary School Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas. 10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House



Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Gail Dawson. Email editor@martley.org or 01886 889180 or leave any articles at Martley Post Office
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Martley Parish Council	<i>Chair:</i> Cllr. D Goodyear—01886 888423; <i>Clerk:</i> Janet Dale 01886 888472
Martley WI	<i>President:</i> Helen CoombeyJones—01886 888294
Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Toddler Group	Will—01886 888340 or Jane—01886 888852
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Martley Young Farmers	Brenda Crump 01886-812534
Path-or-Nones	John Nicklin—01886 888318 johnn@martley.org
Resource Centre	
Police “Surgery”	CSO Helen Cooper—Martley Local Policing Team Tenbury Wells Police Station extn. 3581 Local Policing Officer PC Paul Lambon
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org
Martley Web Mesh	Richard Jackman—01886 821237 richard@martley.org John Layton—01886888460 johnl@martley.org Tom Pearsall—01886 888256 tom@martley.org
Martley Pre-School	Kath/Lucy—01886 889127 www.martleypreschool.co.uk
Martley Recreation Association (playing fields)	<i>Bookings</i> —Pat Owen 01886 888406 pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk
Martley Memorial Village Hall Committee	<i>Chair</i> —Neil Stammers 01886-888513 neil.stammers@btinternet.com <i>Secretary</i> —Annette Smith 01886-821895 villagehall@martley.org or Lyn Wheeler 01886-889240 mortlake10@martley.org
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303 or Sheila Richards—01886 888378
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431
Wichenford Local Heritage Group	Heather Rendall—01886 888239
Martley Village Hall Bookings	Please contact Lucy Horn, 07723064394 or 01886 889148, email lucyhorn@hotmail.com
Martley CSO	Helen W Cooper 40061

To put organisation and its contact details on this list, or to change the details shown here, email editor@martley.org or leave a note for the editor at Martley Post Office.

And finally ...

Little Witley Film Society

Saturday 17 March

The Grocers Son, a warm hearted French film

This likable and warm-hearted study of



Antoine, a moody guy in Paris, who is forced to return to his parents' house in the country and help run the family grocery when his dad is

felled by a heart attack. Antoine, played by newcomer Nicolas Cazalé, happens to have brought along a "friend", the beautiful Claire, played by Clotilde Hesme, having assured her that the country will be the perfect place in which to revise for her forthcoming exams. Of course, he is shyly in love with Claire. This is a sweet and engaging little film, and though it becomes more contrived and sugary as the story progresses, there is real charm.

Martley Library Opening Times

Monday 2—7 pm
Wednesday 4—6 pm
Thursday 10am -1 pm
Friday 2 - 4 pm