

# The Villager

The community magazine for the  
parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 20 No.7

December 2011

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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 8pm Memorial Hall

### **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](http://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**

### **Martley Library Opening Times**

Monday 2—7 pm

Wednesday 4—6 pm

Thursday 10am -1 pm

Friday 2 - 4 pm

Saturday 10am -12 noon

01886 888396 (opening hours only)

**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](http://www.martley.org.uk)



## ***Martley Amateur Dramatics***

Everyone who is involved with our forthcoming Pantomime is very busy at the moment. The cast are learning their parts, the costumes are being made, the scenery is being painted and the props are being gathered together - so we hope that it will be a big success and that you will all enjoy our hard work and shows. We are looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Please remember the dates, 13 & 14 January! The more cheering and booing from our audiences we get - the better we like it!! Everyone who is/has been involved with all our shows this year would like to wish all The Villager readers a very Happy Christmas.

## ***Chantry Drama***



Just when you thought it was safe to go back across the fields! If you remember our 2010 community play 'Back Across the Fields', you might be interested to

know we're already busy on our next all age production. 'Beyond The Fields' will conjure up a Martley of 100 years ago and will play in the Drama Studio for a week, next March, 20th to 24th. Once more we have scoured the archives, oral histories and the imagination to create an original play about growing up in rural Worcestershire a century ago. Using film and drama, we will take you back to a world far beyond the fields, to the First World War and a haunting secret. Look out for more publicity in 2012

*John Townsend*

## ***Martley Spurs Football Club***

### **October 2011**

In the Sunday Junior Cup, played on 2 October 2011 Martley Spurs beat CMB Sports 7 -3, a marvellous start to this campaign. This success continued on 9 October when we beat Northwick 6 -2 bringing us up to second place in the Sunday Division One league table. The first round of the Katherine Rayer Cup was played on the 16 October when we were very unlucky to lose 2-1 against AFC Heenans. We held KGV Worcester to a draw on the 23

October, we haven't lost a league game so far this season ! The final game of the month was yet another cup match, the County Cup against Chainwire FC from Stourport which we won 2 – 1. Training sessions are held on Friday evenings at St John's sports centre, new players are more than welcome to join us anytime. If you are interested in joining us please contact Simon Rawle on 07971 264107 for more details

*M Gardner, Secretary*



### ***Christmas In The Teme Valley***

Christmas is a magical time of year for children, giving families an ideal opportunity to spend time together, experiencing activities and special events that they may not normally do. Come and join Teme Valley Children's Centre for our Stay and Play sessions that will be full of Christmas activities for families to take part in. On Monday 12 December 2011, at Tenbury Pump Rooms, a Christmas Stay and Play, session from 1:30pm-3pm, Thursday 15 December 2011, at the Martley Memorial Hall, a Christmas Stay and Play session from 1:30pm-3pm and Friday 16 December 2011, at Alfrick Village Hall a Christmas Stay and Play session from 10:30am-12noon. During Christmas time it is also important to be safe,

some 80,000 people will visit their local Accident and Emergency department due to an accident at home with fire being one of the most serious hazards that is associated with Christmas. A combination of smoking and drinking alcohol are well-known risk factors, but candle fires also claim lives each year. (RoSPA) Remember to keep decorations and cards away from fires and other heat sources such as light fittings. Don't leave burning candles unattended, make sure you put them out before going to bed and do not put candles on Christmas trees. If your Christmas lights are old, replace them if you can as new ones have higher safety standards and youngsters have also been known to swallow the bulbs! Also ensure toys relevant to your child's age are played with and that they comply with The Toys (Safety) Regulations of 1995. By following the simple suggestions above you can ensure Christmas will be a special time of year for the whole family. Please do keep a look out for all of our usual posters and flyers advertising our Christmas events, venues and times. Alternatively you can contact the Children's Centre on 01886 812982 or email at

[sam.billingham@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:sam.billingham@barnardos.org.uk) or view our informative website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/temevalley](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/temevalley) for more information. On behalf of the Children's Centre may we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for all of your help and support during 2011!

### ***Martley 100 Club***

Many thanks for supporting the 100 Club this year and we hope you will join us again for 2012. The money raised is vital for the future of the Martley Memorial Hall to pay its running costs. If you would like to join, the cost is only £18.00 per entry. The more members we get the higher the prize fund will be! The 2011 Martley 100 Club winners were as follows, January 38 £40 Pat Fowler, February 51 £40 Christine Grasby, March 38 £40 Pat Fowler, April 15 £40 Richard McHugh, May 15 £40 Richard McHugh, June Donated to the Village Hall, June 18 £40 Reg Snow, July 4 £40 Ian Logan, August 44 £40 Mr and Mrs Jolly, September 8 £40 Margaret Taylor, October 50 £40 James Grasby, Nov 10, £60, Margaret Rushgrove, Nov 15 £30 Richard McHugh. Congratulations to all our lucky winners!! For more information on how to join, please contact Annette on 01886 821895.

### ***Martley and District Horticultural Society***

Mike Dunnett welcomed members to the October's meeting on a rather wet night and told of a new scheme in connection with Dobie's seed catalogue, this means a 50% saving on purchases and the contact is John Steele at the Broadheath Allotments. Members were reminded about the Christmas Fair and requests were



made for donations for the Society's stall. Pam Minchin stated that more people are needed on the Committee and it is believed they have a jolly time at the meetings too! Jane Cropp's Topical Tips were select a well-berried branch on your holly tree and wrap in fleece, raise pots and containers off the ground to protect from frost and plant tulips in November. Mike showed specimens of the crab apples Red Sentinel, Admiration and Comtesse de Paris, two interesting Cotoneasters and the attractive purple collicarpa Beauty Berry and advised on cultivation. Our main speaker was Philip Aubury, a former Director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and his talk, Labour Saving Gardening, a 'must'. Philip began by pointing out that a simple garden design will save work in the long run, also consider that, if a lawn is essential, use finer seed varieties not agricultural rye, you'll save much mowing. Edging and shape of lawns is important (bendy strips can be bought). Philip advised that posts should not be concreted in as in time these have to be dug out again! and as regards hedges, beware of Leylandii, it causes wars! The golden sort however is much more controllable. Beech, yew and box are manageable but cut them pyramid shape to maintain their health. Paths, please use weed killer with care, also ground elder can be sprayed, and slugs can be dealt with by bait and salt. Philip brought a number of his favourite garden tools and potions and demonstrated their

uses; he gave lots of tips and explained various gardening ideas with his special form of screen diagrams. A most enjoyable talk, enjoyed by everyone.

Members Notice, Christmas Dinner is Friday 9 December in the Village Hall.

*Tina Steele*

### ***Martley WI***

**Wednesday 14 December 7.30pm  
Heaton House**

Many thanks must go to our outgoing President Helen Coombey-Jones, and all who helped the WI to make our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations such a



fantastic success. There has been a lot of hard work during the year raising funds and preparing for it. It was so nice to see Nellie, our longest-serving member and some former members who had travelled back to Martley to join us for the evening and it was also good to have the County Chairman and members from the Elgar Group joining us as well. Thanks are due also to St Peter's bell ringers for the special peal they rang for us that evening. Suzanne Owen and Vicky Coghlan made us a really tasty meal and Quatro Gento gentlemen serenaded us with Barber Shop songs. Finally everyone had a piece of birthday cake made by the President, and raised a glass for the successful future of Martley WI. This month is going to be a festive one as we shall be having our Christmas Party with surprise entertainment, lots

of party eats and some festive punch to celebrate the Festive Season. Please remember to bring along your red and green items for the ACWW table sale. Fancy joining us, then come along and see what we get up too!

*Kate King*

### ***Martley Ramblers***

There is no walk this month as the weather can be difficult and afternoons get dark very early. The Annual General Meeting has been held and appointments has now been



made regarding the committee and the programme for the forthcoming year, 2012 have now been planned. Members will receive it later this month and it will also be placed on line. It was fantastic that so many people came along to the recent planning meeting in the Memorial Hall and chatted to us and showed an interest in possibly joining the Ramblers too. Anyone is welcome to join us for a single walk with no commitment at all, it would be lovely to see you. Happy Rambling if you are walking off the Christmas excesses and we will see you in the New Year.

*Kate King*

### ***Pudford Lane***

After the exceedingly dry summer and autumn, the supply of water from the springs has petered out. Water diviners have been testing their skills and may, on application, be prepared to pass on their knowledge and know-

how. Our quiet lane has not been immune from metal thieves and we now have some bright green plastic covers where the drain covers were. Helen, the Martley Community Support Officer, asks that if any suspicious vehicles and occupants are seen in the area, please note the number plate and other details and ring the police immediately. It's sad that all the glorious autumn colour of the leaves has gone, but it won't be long before the first catkins and early flowers appear. Jacob donkey has been enjoying the surfeit of windfall apples, but, thinking of his increasing tummy girth, we have had a lot of apples successfully processed, pasteurised and bottled. Labels with a suitable name have still to be sorted out. One has been suggested "Jacob's Juice", but perhaps this could be misconstrued!

Kate King

### ***Martley's Past***

**A second extract from Jessie Brydges early life story, "My Book", about her life in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.**

In bad weather, my father didn't earn very much, because he was coppicing or cutting down ash beds. Whatever was cut down in the ash beds was made into faggots, poles, heatherings and fencing materials or stakes ready for use on the farm, and all this was done piece-work. In very cold weather, with hoar frost and snow, it was very hard work and it made my father's hands extremely sore. Big

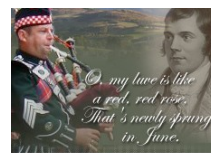
long cuts came from handling wood covered with frost and snow and I can remember him quite well at night, getting the candle and some black cobblers wax, which he'd heat in the candle flame and drop into those big cracks in his hands, and then he'd smooth them down with his other fingers till they'd filled up and hardened. That way he could use them the next day. It must have been very painful, Mother didn't like to see him doing it, she drew her breath as he did it for she knew how painful it must be. Black would come off his hands onto her sheets when he got warm in bed, and she had a job to get them clean again, but he said "I must do it or I won't be able to work".

One of the pleasures of rural life!

Alan Boon

### ***Burns Night Supper***

We are very pleased to announce our 5th year of celebrating Burns Night which will be held on 27 January 2012 at Martley Village Hall. Back by popular demand, Cobwebs will serve



their very successful and tasty Burns Fair in both traditional and vegetarian Haggis, flown in from Edinburgh the

night before, along with Ian Craigan and his musicians who will be leading the Scottish Country dancing, their 30 years of experience is a must in helping us less able dancers get up on the dance floor! Bill Culshaw, Jill Smith, Jennifer Whittaker and David



Sherwin will all be helping to make the evening "the best yet" . Tickets have been held at last year's price of £20 each and these can be purchased before the 10 January from the following people, Sheila on 01886 888378, James on 01886 888359 or Gill on 01905 425652

*Jean Hyslop*

### ***Parish Plan 'Have Your Say' Questionnaires and Open Meeting***

A big thank you to everyone who has filled in the questionnaire, these are now being analysed and we'll keep you up to date with the results. Your input will help reflect the shape that Martley takes in the next 20 years. There was an amazing turnout for the Open morning with villagers coming from the whole of the Parish. We'd particularly like to thank The Martley bell ringers, WI, Teme Valley Geological Society, Pathenones, Martley Web Mesh, our Community police officers, Sport Martley, Martley Ramblers, Martley Recreation association grants, and the Parish Council for their displays and the opportunity to show some of what the parish has to offer. The Parish Plan team set up the Village Hall with a planning display showing the close links between the emerging Parish Plan, the South Worcestershire Development Plan and the Localism Bill. Also on display was a long, long scroll of relevant newspaper cuttings on current planning issues as well as various detailed parish maps and

plans. As a way for villagers to have their say, a set of tables with post-it notes was set up with subject headings that covered Environment and Sustainability, Traffic and Travel, New Development, the Local Economy, Community and Recreation, and Young People. Everyone enjoyed the tea, coffee and cake that were provided and it was an opportunity for the parish to be part of this 'democratic' event. The views and opinions that have been gathered will now go forward and underpin the first draft of Martley's Parish Plan.

### ***Youth Clubs in Martley***

We are considering starting a Junior and a Senior Youth Club in Martley. I know we have lots of young people who need this facility, as shown on the list at the Parish Plan Open meeting. However, in order for this to go ahead we really need volunteers to help run these clubs. Interested? Then please ring Pat Owen on 01886 888406 or email [pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk)

*Pat Owen*

### ***Local Policing News***

With winter approaching I would like to increase awareness of security within private homes and drives. Unfortunately the amount of burglaries often increases this time of year due to Christmas approaching. The cold conditions can also result in cars being taken from outside people's homes.

#### **Houses**

You can boost your security very easily by being more vigilant, always

locking doors and windows, using sensor lights over garages and sheds, planting prickly plants against low fences, leaving a light on if you're out in the evenings, making your neighbours aware if you go on holiday and joining neighbourhood watch. You should also always keep valuables and keys out of sight and out of reach of doors and windows, especially car keys!

#### **Vehicles on drives**

Cold and frosty mornings are approaching and vehicle owners often leave their cars with engines running and keys in the ignition, to go back inside their house, whilst the car warms up/windscreen clears etc. Offenders will identify a target vehicle and approach in a different vehicle, one person will be dropped off and then jump into running car. They will then simply drive away. This often happens first thing in the morning and Mercedes, BMW, Audi and Subaru vehicles are especially targeted. This could all be avoided by people staying with their cars whilst they de-frost. All the above is very basic advice but luckily both the Tenbury and Martley patches are very low crime areas. Let's keep it this way and boost our security this winter!

Have a great safe Christmas!

*CSO Helen Wendy Cooper 40061.*

#### ***Pensax Thrift Shop***

Pensax Thrift Shop closes for the winter period on Wednesday 7 December at 11.15 am and re-opens at 9am on the first Wednesday in March,

weather permitting ! There are still some Help for Heroes Christmas cards and merchandise on sale. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

#### ***Baptisms***

**Amy Helen Rivers Perry** on 6 November at St Peter's, Martley.

**Yasmin Mona Martin** also on 6 November at St Peter's, Martley.

#### ***Marriages***



Andrew Gummery and Joanne Smith on 1 October at St Peter's, Martley

#### ***Laid To Rest***

**Laid to rest were the ashes of** Peter Harrison who died on 18 October 2010. The burial of Peter's ashes was held at St Peter's, Martley on 17 October 2011.

#### ***Martley Parish Council***

**Edited draft unapproved minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7 November 2011 at the Memorial Hall, Martley Democratic Period/ Public Question Time**

An enquiry was made as to whether the Police were intending to use the weighbridge. The new speed sign at Hillside appears to be registering late. The young people from school would like to plant some bulbs around the





weighbridge. County Cllr Davies reported on the road closures that would be affecting the parish shortly. He also reported that Holt Bridge work was complete and the weight limit restriction had been removed. He has received correspondence from Ombersley residents requesting the weight limit to be re-instated. Divisional Fund, 18 applications have been received with 2 from Martley, a decision will follow shortly. WCC are looking for volunteers to take part in the Citizens Panel quarterly survey.

#### **Lengthsman**

The Clerk reported that the budget was healthy and Council needed to consider additional duties. The following suggestions were made, The hedges at Collins Green to be trimmed, Weighbridge area to be cleared along with suckers behind notice board, Kingswood Lane has a broken concrete slab over the drain and an open drain cover at Pudford Lane.

#### **Planning**

**11/01177/CON** Demolition of existing coach depot, Rogers Coach Garage

**11/01103/FUL** Demolition of existing coach depot building and erection of a replacement coach depot building, Council fully supported these applications

**11/00932/LBC**, Noak Farm, Martley, Refused

**11/01119/FUL**, Bramblewood, Hipplecote, Approved

**11/01046/LBC** and **11/00998/HOU**, New House Farm, Hope House Lane, Approved

#### **Progress Reports**

Phone Box Adoption. The clerk has been in contact with British Telecom and MHDC consent is required. The damaged signs at Hillside and Hope House Lane have both been reported.

#### **Finance**

The financial approvals previously circulated were approved and cheques to the value of £1560.72 were signed accordingly. Cllr Dr Cumella and Cllr Mr Studer both agreed to stand on the Finance Committee. Items for budget were to be considered for the financial year 2012-2013, prior to the December meeting.

#### **Correspondence**

The meeting was informed of the road closure notices. The Chairman and Clerk are to meet with Community First and a letter from West Mercia Police was read out explaining that police presence at meetings would be reduced.

#### **Rural Rate Relief**

An application has been received from The Post Office for discretionary rate relief.

#### **Recreation Association**

The proposal previously circulated was discussed. Several points will require clarification to be discussed at the next meeting. As the insurance cover expires in November, cover for the Pavilion will be added to Parish Council insurance and re-charged to MRA. The play equipment will be also be added to the insurance.

#### **Winter Gritting**

It was reported that a suitable location had been found to store salt and that it

has been ordered. It was agreed that the areas around Heaton House, the routes to the schools and the roads around the shops were the main areas to concentrate on.

**Date of next meeting**

Monday 5th December 2011, please note the start time of 19:30pm and the venue will be The Library

***A Concert Of Christmas Music***



To be presented by the Ferndale Singers on Saturday 10 December 2011 at 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall, Tickets £5 (to include wine and light refreshments) and a raffle will be held too! Please contact 01886 888246, 01886 821127 or 01905 333225 for more details.

***Remembrance Day***

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We Will Remember Them

Millions of people across the UK observed a two-minute silence to mark Armistice Day. The event commemorates those who died in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts, including almost 400 UK personnel killed in Afghanistan since 2001. Martley also paid its respects with a service at St Peters Church at

10.45am. The sun shone and the birds sung and after a very emotional and moving service at the War Memorial, where wreaths were laid and prayers were said, we all filed into church lead by Rev David Sherwin to take part in the Remembrance Day Service. The Last Post played and we all stood in silence at 11am and remembered loved ones, friends and comrades who had been lost in action. The service continued with prayers, hymns and readings and finally we all stood and sang God Save Our Queen. A beautiful service where young and old all stood together and simply 'remembered'.



**Martley Library Opening Times**

Monday 2—7 pm

Wednesday 4—6 pm

Thursday 10am -1 pm

Friday 2 - 4 pm

Saturday 10am -12 noon

01886 888396 (opening hours only)

**Martley Christmas Fayre**

**On Sunday 4 December 2011**

**Between 1.30pm—3.30pm**

**At Martley Memorial Hall**

**Music and Live Radio Broadcast with Mark Tibbutt  
from Longside Radio, Martley**

**Father Christmas and Christmas Grotto**

**Mulled Wine and Mince Pies**

**Tea and Cakes**

**Tombola Stall**

**Horticultural Society Christmas Stall**

**Beautiful Crafts and Jewellery for All**

**Super Raffle including a Turkey Hamper**

**Local Honey and preserves**

**Lucky Dip**

**Puppet Shows with Rev David Sherwin**

**Christmas Cards**

**Please come along and support your Local Village Hall  
this Christmas—Lots Of Fun For All The Family!**





# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

**WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS**

**Janet Andrews**  
**01886 888303**  
**Sheila Richards**  
**01886 888378**



## ***Wichenford 100 Club***

Congratulations to our October winners, 1st prize, Clive Brookes with ticket number 29, 2nd prize, S Barwell with ticket number 223 and 3rd prize, M Harris with ticket number 99. The draw was made by Vicky Mayne and Abi Birks. Thankyou to everyone who has continued to support the Wichenford 100 club for the coming year 2011-2012.

## ***Church Flowers***

December Advent, no flowers

### **Church events for December**

Friday 9 December

Christmas Tree to be decorated

Saturday 10 December

Christmas Wedding in Church

Sunday 11 December

Family Worship and Christingle

Sevice at 4pm

Sunday 18 December

Christmas Carol Service at 4pm

Saturday 24 Christmas Eve Civil Ser-

vice at 4pm and Holy Communion at

10pm

## ***Wichenford Harvest Supper***

The Village Hall was filled to capacity for the harvest supper and a very good evening was enjoyed by all who were present. Ian Briggs and his group provided the splendid entertainment on the evening. The excellent raffle raised a substantial sum for church funds and the profit from the bar will be given to the Memorial Hall Committee for their funds. The supper committee thank everyone for all the help they received and to all who prepared the delicious food. Thanks also must go to all those who donated raffle prizes. The super new kitchen was very much appreciated; our thanks are due to the Memorial Hall Committee for all their work in carrying out the improvements.

## ***Marriages***

Gareth Morgan and  
Gillian Poole on 19 No-  
vember at St Laurence,  
Wichenford.



### ***In Memorium***

Mildred Ellen Pargeter who passed away on the 5 October and was buried at St Laurence, Wichenford on the 14 October.

### ***Welcome!***

We have two new neighbours in Newtown, we would like to welcome you both. Heather and Brian from Hagley are retired, they have a daughter who lives in Broadgreen. Also Candice and Rupert from Kempsey. They live in Nellie and Jack Bradley's old house. We hope you will be as happy as they were here in Martley. Welcome to both families from everyone in Newtown !

### ***Mildred (Millie) Pargeter***

Millie was born in January 1918, three months after her father was killed whilst fighting in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Millie and her mother lived at Bliss Gate and when the time came she attended Bliss Gate School and later Abberley School. Her mother remarried and then they moved to Hilend Farm in Abberley. After leaving school Millie worked on her stepfather's farm until she married in 1939 and moved to Quatt near Bridgnorth. In 1942 Harold and Millie moved again, this time to Aston Botterell in Shropshire where they managed a farm; Millie's role was to rear 1,000 chickens for the large battery houses there. By this time they had 4 children, Sheila, Trevor, Colin and Rita. The family always longed to get back to Worcestershire and in 1957 they real-

ised their dream and by sheer hard work and determination they achieved their goal by becoming the proud owners of Bush Farm. Millie ran the house, cared for the children, created a garden and looked after the poultry and fed the calves. In 1972 they built a retirement bungalow on the farm which they moved into. Millie now had the time to help run the Nora Parsons Day Centre, be an active member of the Ladies Fellowship and a dedicated worshipper at Wichenford Church. In 1993, Millie was widowed but carried on with all her village commitments and also enjoyed playing whist. Millie's family was her life; she was a mother, grandmother and great grandmother and was dearly loved by them all.

### ***Around and about in our Neighbouring Villages***

### ***Business Focus Of The Month***

#### **The Snug**

As I write this, we have been open for just 4 weeks and I have been truly overwhelmed by the lovely comments and response to my new hair & beauty salon in the beautiful rural community of the Teme Valley, "we never expected a London style boutique salon in the middle of nowhere!" said some of the comments. We are already planning ahead for Christmas and have a new selection of treatments available, who needs London when you can have it all here! As a thank you to everyone

who has supported me, sent messages of good luck, and the fantastic support from the readers of The Villager, I would like to invite readers to come along to meet us for a cosy coffee next to the log burner at the Snug. We will be hosting a Christmas special on 30 November and 7 December to introduce our lovely new florist, Jane, we are also going to be holding wreath making evenings, which are bound to be lots of fun, but spaces are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment! Don't forget too that due to popular demand the discount of 15% is still open for new customers on their first treatment/s. Again thanks to everyone for their support with my new venture – I'm running this alongside my job role at The Chantry too, so life's is very busy but I am loving it! I look forward to meeting you very soon and please give me a call if you would like to know more information on the Salon.

*Hazel, The Snug*  
Tel 01886 853296/07989 529215

### ***Giant Christmas message poster***



St. Richard's  
Hospice  
CARING FOR LIFE

Save lots of time and money this Christmas and raise some funds for St Richards Hospice by using one of our free giant Christmas message posters. Instead of sending individual cards to friends and colleagues, festive messages can be written on the poster and

a donation of £2 made to the hospice. St Richard's fundraiser Lizzie Brazier said, "This is a lovely, cheery snowman poster which will brighten up any workplace or wall and is a great way to save time, paper and money as well as helping the hospice." To request a poster and special donations envelope contact Lizzie on 01905 763963 or email

[lbrazier@strichards.org.uk](mailto:lbrazier@strichards.org.uk)

### ***St Richards Hospice Christmas Lunch***

Adventurer Sue Riches will be the guest speaker at this year's Christmas Lunch which will be held on Thursday, 8 December at the Worcester Warriors Sixways Stadium. In 1997 Sue and her daughter were part of a world record breaking relay expedition as members of the first all women's trip to the North Pole. Sue overcame breast cancer before trekking to the North Pole. She joins us for a fascinating and inspirational talk. Tickets are priced at £27 to include a three course meal. Please contact St Richards Hospice on 01905 763963

### ***In Memoriam***



*In Memoriam*

Muriel Lilian Boon who passed away on 10 October and was buried at St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas on 20 October.

June Sparkes who passed away on 15



October. June's cremation was held on 31 October at Worcester.

Anne Foord who passed away on 20 October, Anne's cremation was held on 2 November at Worcester.

### ***The Shelsleys Educational Supplement***

This year by popular demand we are looking at aspects of travel with focus on a local emphasis. The cost will remain at £25 for all four lectures or £8 if attended individually (inclusive of mid-break refreshment). As before any surplus will go to the church funds. The four lectures will be as follows:

#### **Roads**

Terry Keegan from The Milestone Society together with Alan Scapellhorn will talk on "Turnpikes, Toll Roads and Milestones", on Tuesday 25 January

#### **Railways**

Michael Whitehouse will expound on the "Last Days of Steam in the Borders" and will be showing some vintage films of steam locomotion from Bewdley to Monmouth, on Tuesday 15 February.

#### **Canals**

Margaret Rowley (President of the Droitwich Canal Trust) will take us "From Droitwich to Bristol and Beyond; the golden age of Droitwich canals and the town's salt trade" on Wednesday 29 February.

#### **Cycling**

The last lecture on Wednesday 14 March, will be Bob Jones of the Veteran Cycle Club. Bob will wind up

the series with a talk on "The history of the bicycle and its social impact"

All lectures will be held in the Shelsley Beauchamp Village Hall, and will commence at 7.30pm. Please contact Johnny Crabbe at e-mail [johnjean.crabbe@virgin.net](mailto:johnjean.crabbe@virgin.net), or telephone 01886 812373

*Johnny Crabbe*

### ***What would you do with £10,000?***

Well for just £1 a ticket you are in with a chance to win £10,000 cash in the latest St Richard's Hospice annual raffle so you could decide! Thanks to the support of sponsors Umberto Giannini Hairdressing, Startin Honda and Worcester Racecourse, St Richard's is able to offer this fantastic prize. Tickets are now on sale and the draw will take place on Friday, March 30th 2012. You can buy your tickets now from the hospice shops, from St Richard's at Wildwood Drive, Worcester; Startin Honda Worcester and from a variety of venues around the county in the coming months. Or call the Fundraising Team on 01905 763963 or email [appeals@strichards.org.uk](mailto:appeals@strichards.org.uk) for your tickets. Thank you for your support. Our annual raffle raises more than £45,000 towards our work caring for patients and families living with life-threatening illnesses, and St Richard's Hospice relies on donations and Gifts in Wills to provide our care. For more information please visit [www.strichards.org.uk](http://www.strichards.org.uk) or call us on 01905 763963

*Helen Griffiee,  
St Richards Hospice*

### ***Looking for my Grandfather***

In the pursuit of researching our family history; my grandfather was said to have grown up in an orphanage in or around Martley. I am assuming that that was the Workhouse (there does not seem to have been any other orphanage in that vicinity?) and I found his name listed, Charles Hudson who then was aged 6 years old in the 1901 census. I have also noticed that a number of the people at the workhouse had 'not known' under the heading 'where born' but Charles Hudson had Warwickshire, Birmingham. Charles met Edith Pugh and married in Worcester where they lived out their lives, they lived at the Tything in Worcester for a lot of years and then moved to Hebb Street. They had 3 children, two sons, Dennis and Kenneth and a daughter Phyllis. When Charles was a teenager he worked at Ombersley House where he was the Footman, until signing on to serve in WW1. I would be very grateful if any readers of this magazine could help me with this search for my grandfather. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email (as I am currently living in Australia) at [Chat2jan@bigpond.net.au](mailto:Chat2jan@bigpond.net.au)

Thank you once again

*Janice Clark nee Hudson*

### ***Christmas Carols at our local Pubs***



Its almost a tradition now!  
Gathering around the bar,  
drinks and mince pies in  
hand, singing all time fa-

vourite Christmas Carols—well its back again for another year. Rev David Sherwin will be hosting Christmas Carols at the following pubs:

The Masons Arms, Wichenford,  
Thursday 22nd December from 8pm

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Green,  
Friday 23 December from 8pm

### ***Christmas Fun***

Where do Santa's little helpers go to relax?

*The Elf Farm!*

What do Snowmen eat for lunch?

*IceBurgers!*

What do you call a reindeer with ear muffs? *Anything at all—he cant hear you!*

How did the chickens dance at their Christmas party? *Chick to Chick!!*

Who Says Oh Oh Oh? *Santa walking backwards!*

What is the first thing learnt by elves in school? *The Elf-abet!*

### ***A Christmas Poem***

#### ***A Christmas Tree***

One little star on the top of the tree,  
Two little presents underneath for me,  
Three silver ropes twisted around the tree,

Four coloured lights shining prettily,  
Five shining balls flowing silvery.  
Oh, what a sight for us to see!



## ***In the Garden***



Most of us will not have a lot of time for gardening in December, but if there is a dry sunny day when you are tempted outside, here are a few suggestions. Clear fallen leaves from lawns, if you leave them the grass beneath will die off and rot, (try to avoid walking on wet or frosted lawns). Also clear leaves which have fallen onto alpine plants will tolerate dry cold but not the wet. Check pots. Container grown plants are more at risk from frost damage than plants growing in borders so protect any outside pots from freezing by moving them together in a sheltered corner and wrapping them in bubble-wrap plastic. It is also a good idea to raise the pots so they do not risk getting waterlogged. Keep some spare bubble-wrap or fleece handy for emergency protection if there is a hard frost forecast - remember last December ! Why not plant up a pot as a Christmas present? You could go for a winter display with variegated ivy and pansies or wall-flowers, or, an early spring selection of bulbs such as cyclamen coum or snowdrops. Take cuttings. Winter is the best time to take root cuttings of perennials such as oriental poppies and phlox, and hardwood cuttings of shrubs such as willows, philadelphus and hydrangeas. In the kitchen garden you can

take cuttings of blackcurrants and gooseberries. Pruning. This is also a good time to prune apples and pears, and summer-flowering (large flowered) clematis. Cut the clematis back to a pair of strong buds to give good growth next summer. If the weather keeps you indoors check up on your houseplants. In winter they need less feeding and watering, however, as the temperature drops outside the central heating goes on and the temperature in the house tends to go up. Check that your plants and any pots of bulbs don't dry out.

### **Ponds**

Use pond heaters to keep ponds from freezing over, as this can be fatal for fish and other pond life. There are other precautions you can take to prevent your pond freezing over, if you do not have a heater. To make a hole in frozen ponds, hold a saucepan of hot water on the surface until melted through. Do not crack the ice, as this is harmful to fish.

### **Top 5 things to do this month**

Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place, Check that greenhouse heaters are working OK, Prevent ponds and stand pipes from freezing, Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls), Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding



# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

What's in a name?

Our names are very important to us, some of us love them, some of us may not be so fond of them. Some of our names remind us of relatives after whom we are named, maybe a parent or grandparent. Others may be named after famous people whom the parents admired. Our own daughters Rebecca and Rachel have biblical names and our youngest has the name Natalie.

Natalie is the English form of Natalia, which is derived from the Italian "natale," meaning "birthday." The term refers specifically to Christ's birthday - the Italian phrase for "Merry Christmas" is "Buon Natale!", literally "Good Birthday!"

And so at this point may I wish you a very Buon Natale or in English, Merry Christmas!

You may have noticed the new Christmas stamps this year have pictures with biblical verses underneath them, which is quite unusual. They both refer to the birth narrative in Matthew's gospel and both refer to the names that the child to be born in Bethlehem was to be given.

On the second class stamp we see an angel speaking to Joseph in a dream telling him that: Mary will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his

people from their sins. The name Jesus, having the meaning 'God Saves' was to be an important part of his ministry here on earth.

The first class stamp has Mary holding the Christ child in her arms and refers to the verse in Matthew that says: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel which means God with us.

Both these names given to Jesus were to sum up his ministry here on earth, for he would be the one who would walk from cradle to cross that we might be 'saved' and beyond that rise again and continue to be Emmanuel (God with us).

God was with us in Christ as that child, as the one who walked the earth and is with us now. May God be with you this Christmas whatever you do, whether you will enjoy celebrations with lots of people or whether you find yourself alone.

What's in a name? Well the names of the Christ child were very significant and continue to be so today.

Natalie...Buon Natale...Merry Christmas

*Revd David Sherwin*

<b>Sunday 4 December</b>	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary & St Andrew, Knightwick 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene
<b><u>Please note new time</u></b>	<b>4.30pm</b> Christingle, St Peter, Martley 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Monday 5 December	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tuesday 6 December	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene
Wednesday 7 December	12Noon Prayer at the Heart, St Mary and St Andrew
<b>Sunday 11 December</b>	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 4.00pm Christingle, St Laurence, Wichenford
Monday 12 December	8.30am Prayer Breakfast at David's
Tuesday 13 December	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Chantry High School Carol Service at St Peters
Wednesday 14 December	10.15am Christmas Carols, Heaton House
<b>Sunday 18 December</b>	8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley 3.00pm Carol Service, St Mary and St Andrew, Knightwick 4.00pm Carol Service, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Carol Service, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Carol Service, St Peter, Martley
Monday 19 December	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter's, Martley
Tuesday 20 December	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene
Wednesday 21 December	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thursday 22 December	8.00pm onwards Carols at The Masons, Wichenford
Friday 23 December	8.00pm onwards Carols at The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Green
Saturday 24 December	4.00pm Crib Service, St Laurence, Wichenford 5.00pm Crib Service, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10.00pm Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.30pm Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.30pm Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene
<b>Christmas Day</b>	9.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
<b>Sunday 25 December</b>	11.00am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley with the Archdeacon of Worcester, Roger Morris

#### **Dates for your diary**

Tuesdays, 6, 13 and 20 December at 7.30pm—Bible Study group at the home of Chris Woodburn.



# Village Contacts



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Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
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Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
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Martley Memorial Village Hall Committee	<i>Chair</i> —Neil Stammers 01886-888513 <a href="mailto:neil.stammers@btinternet.com">neil.stammers@btinternet.com</a> <i>Secretary</i> —Annette Smith 01886-821895 <a href="mailto:villagehall@martley.org">villagehall@martley.org</a> or Lyn Wheeler 01886-889240 <a href="mailto:mortlake10@martley.org">mortlake10@martley.org</a>
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, 0772064394 or 01886 889148, email <a href="mailto:lucyhorn@hotmail.com">lucyhorn@hotmail.com</a>
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To put organisation and its contact details on this list, or to change the details shown here, email [editor@martley.org](mailto:editor@martley.org) or leave a note for the editor at Martley Post Office.



## ***And finally ...***

### ***Thank You and Merry Christmas***

The Villager Team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Also, thank you to everyone who has supported our monthly magazine throughout this year, we could not produce this without all of your continued contributions and the fantastic commitment from everyone in our team. Thanks again and here's to a successful 2012! May Christmas peace be with you all.

*The Villager Team*

### ***Martley 100 Club***

Novembers draw took place at the Martley Village Hall Committee meeting on Monday 14 November 2011 at 7.30pm. The lucky winners for November were ticket number 10, Margaret Rushgrove, which wins £60.00 (drawn by Gail Dawson) and ticket number 15, Richard McHugh who wins £30.00 (drawn by Mark Tibbutt). Congratulations to both winners. For more details of how to join the Martley 100 Club, please see the article on page 12.

*Gail Dawson*

