

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 16 No. 11

April 2007

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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

2nd Sunday in the month:

Walking Not Working with the Path-or-Nones. Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help survey the footpaths

Mondays

1st Monday in the month:

Martley Parish Council 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling 2.30pm Martley Memorial Hall (2pm winter months)

Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship 2.30pm
2nd Tuesday in the month (usually)

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing

7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

Martley Folk Club: 1st Wednesday in the month at The Admiral Rodney

Martley WI: 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm at 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

Weight Watchers

6.30 pm - 7.30 pm Martley Memorial Hall

Other events:

Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

Telephone Service: Mon & Tue 10am—3pm Thu 10am— 7.30pm **Great Witley**

& Knightwick Surgeries: Weds 10am - 4pm - by appt. 01584 810860

See Church Words for details of services

See articles inside for details of special events AND changes of times or dates 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)

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



April fools

The history of April Fool's Day, sometimes called All Fool's Day, is unclear. There really wasn't a "first April Fool's Day" that can be pinpointed on the calendar. Some believe it evolved simultaneously in several cultures at the same time, from celebrations involving the first day of spring.

The closest point in time that can be identified as the beginning of this tradition was in 1582, in France. Prior to that year, the new year was celebrated for eight days, beginning on March 25. The celebration culminated on April 1. With the reform of the calendar under Charles IX, the Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved to January 1.

However, communications being what

they were in the days when news traveled by foot, many people did not receive the news for several years. Others, the more obstinate crowd, refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1. These backward folk were labeled as "fools" by the general populace. They were subject to some ridicule, and were often sent on "fools errands" or were made the butt of other practical jokes.

Playing pranks

This harassment evolved, over time, into a tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. The tradition eventually spread to England and Scotland in the eighteenth century. It was later introduced to the American colonies of both the English and French. April Fool's Day thus developed into an international fun fest, so to speak, with different nationalities specializing in their own brand of humours at the expense of their friends and families.

In Scotland, for example, April Fool's Day is actually celebrated for two days. The second day is devoted to pranks involving the posterior region

of the body. It is called Taily Day. The origin of the "kick me" sign can be traced to this observance. You can only play April fools on people before mid-day. By that time the joker is told: *April Fool's Day is past and gone You're the fool and I am none.*

Some fun fool ideas.

Drippy

Use a pin to make a few small holes in a plastic disposable cup. Offer a drink to the victim and watch while the liquid dribbles out the bottom.

Do the Splits

Find a scrap of cloth. Place a pound on the floor and stay nearby. When the victim comes by and bends down to pick up the money, rip the cloth loudly. Most people will reach back to see if they ripped their trousers.

Running Late

While the victim is asleep, reset all the clocks ahead two hours. When they wake up they will panic and think they slept late and are late for school or work.

in February, Jenny Underhill planned one for Cleobury Mortimer. Sadly it was cancelled due to the heavy snow-falls, but Jenny has it on hold for another time.

The annual dinner at The Live and Let Live, Whitbourne was good fun with 23 members present. Pam Bowers was thanked for her hard work in organising it and the Staff thanked for the excellent meal and friendly service. The Walker family arranged the quiz and George Coombey-Jones thanked all for attending.

The walk this month is Upper Arley and Trimpley Reservoir led by Pam Bowers. Note earlier date 1 April to avoid Easter Sunday.

Kate King

Martley WI

Wednesday 11 April 7.30pm Heaton House

Members were sad to hear of the death of Phyllis Dorrell. Although ill health had prevented her from coming to the meetings over the last few months, she was a long time and loyal member.

We do not always save our views and opinions to be aired at the resolution meeting as was evident at the February meeting when the appearance and content of the new WI Life magazine was discussed. General opinion was that it was a poor replacement for Home and Country, especially as the subscription had been raised to pay for it. Doubtless there will be a discussion on the matter at the AGM at the Albert Hall

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 1 April
2pm Church
Car Park

After agreeing to step in at short notice to provide a walk



in June, but there will be plenty more important issues to talk about. We had a preview of the resolutions chosen by WFWI to go forward, but the final list is not yet available.

The speaker this month is Garth Lowe who returns to tell us more about the Knapp and Papermill Reserve, always a fascinating subject and always an entertaining speaker. The competition is for three spring flowers. Suggestions for speakers for the next year's programme will be welcomed.

Kate King



Martley Spurs

February was certainly not favourable to playing football, snow and rain made for water-logged unplay-

able pitches.

The month started off with the Saturday Premier side drawing three all with University of Worcester, while the Sunday game was postponed. The following weekend all games were postponed, snow had made football fields unusable.

Things went back to normal on the 17th when the Saturday eleven beat Hallow 5-4, after extra time, to put them into the next round of the Martley Cup, Chris Collins and Tony Farnsworth both netting a pair.

The final weekend of the month saw

the Sunday Premier team beat Nun-nery Wood Sports 4-2, with Chris Collins and Rupert Morris both hitting the net twice. The Reserves meanwhile drew three all with Reality.

The league tables published early in the month showed the Saturday Premier eleven as runners-up to Upton Town, but having played six games less than the leaders.

The Sunday Premier side lay halfway up their table, while the Reserves were well down the Sunday 1st Division.

Beth Williams

Pudford Lane

Lambs bleating, ewes calling, buzzards mewing and rooks and ravens cawing – the sounds of Spring are everywhere. Add to that the trickle of running water down the roadside verges and we know that winter is truly over. Nest building and home enlarging continues apace.

The many contractors must hate the fact that the lane is a dead end and wish there were more passing places with a turning circle at the end. The layby operative reports on the usual motley collection of rubbish, numerous alcohol cans, drinks cups, newspapers and girlie magazines plus four motorcycle tyres.

Any reports of two motorcycles or a quad bike running on bare rims would be appreciated so that the tyres can be returned to their rightful owners.

Kate King

In the Garden



A busy month. Plant out any indoor-raised hardy vegetables; thin out seedlings down rows once they are well established, remembering to leave enough root vegetables to pull young ones to eat, while leaving alternate plants to develop fully. Work a high-nitrogen fertiliser around spring cabbages to speed growth. Pick sprouting broccoli regularly. Sow summer cabbages and autumn cauliflowers, also peas (wrinkled), perpetual spinach and turnips. Plant asparagus crowns,

adding compost and manure. Sow main crop potatoes. Watch for 'big bud' on blackcurrants, pick these off and burn them. Plant out sweet peas if in pots, having first applied bonemeal to deeply dug ground. Sow wallflowers and other biennials. Feed hollyhocks with liquid manure. There are many potted alpiners suitable for adding to the rockery or flowerbed at this time. Re-pot tomato seedlings before they get crowded; sow marrows, melons and cucumbers – all these require warmth. Sprinkle bonemeal on forked soil round roses. Plant evergreens, keeping the soil and foliage moist. Rhododendrons and azaleas can be transplanted successfully in April. Plant summer flowering bulbs such as nerines.

Tina Steele

Martley & District Horticultural Society

Joan Southerton from Stourport gave a demonstration of flower arranging at our February meeting. Her first arrangement was a 'massed' one – an Easter basket using twisty willow, mixed foliage and Spring flowers. She advised always pick early in the day and explained how important it is to condition the cut flowers etc by immersing them in cold water for as long as possible (or sometimes just the stalk ends in boiling water), this will mean they last so much longer. Joan used a stapler to fix rolled *Aspidistra*

leaves and told us to be careful regarding stipulated measurements in competitions – tulips keep on growing when in oasis! Heavier things can be secured by special florist's gadgets. Next Joan did a different style, using oasis wrapped in leaves, secured with gold wire, in a square glass container. Her main tips were: "Only push the stems of the horizontally inserted plants a short way into the oasis so these will not clash with those pushed downwards on the top of the oasis block, and cut your flowers etc short, therefore hiding this from view. Use plenty of foliage – you will need fewer flowers (cont page 15...)"



Diary of a Superdad

It was during the recent cold snap that I first came across Superlice.

It was the first heavy snowfall I'd seen since black and white TV. In fact, everywhere suddenly resembled that pre-colour golden era and the boys were quick to pick up on it. "It must be like the olden days when everything was black and white," they said, confused that their dazzling, multi-channelled, Internet-based game world should suddenly and inexplicably look like an old movie.

The schools were shut as the TV weather girls cheerily told everyone we were in for a big freeze, "so stay at home and wrap up warm!" I decided to go against their advice and head to work in a brave, Superdad, Scott-of-the-Antarctic kind of way, with the family looking on appreciatively as I struggled through the blizzard to the car mouthing the parting words: "I'm just popping outside and may be some time".

Predictably, the roads had not been gritted so the car glided hazardously at a snail's pace along the country lanes. At work, colleagues spent most of the day worrying about getting away and most, including me, left early. Hours later I finally arrived home and even before I'd shaken the

snow off my coat wifey rushed out of the kitchen in her 'meal's-already-overcooked' type of way and said the boys were in the bath and could I deal with it.

As usual the bathroom was a scene of unspeakable devastation as pirates, American marines and submarines fought dinosaurs in a melee of happy, sodden chaos. At this moment, wifey proffered a fine, tooth-picked comb and said: "Before they get out, check for head lice, there's a lot of it about at school", adding, "you've probably got them as well, so check your hair." I hadn't thought about head lice since Brotherhood of Man won the Eurovision Song Contest and just the idea of them (that's head lice and Brotherhood of Man) have haunted me to this day.

The boys, however, remained nonchalantly oblivious to the pesky parasites, continuing their aquatic battles as I combed their wet hair in slow down strokes, studying the plastic teeth for evidence of bug life. And soon enough I found them, a mush of wet eggs and big daddy and mummy lice complete with spindly legs and hard flea-like shells.

As usual wifey had already done the research. Head lice have become increasingly immune to every chemical we can throw at them and have now transmuted into Superlice, apparently. Each year, 7.2 million head lice take up residence among the follicles of around 700,000 British school children. A Superlice has an average life-



span of 30 days and a mummy can lay nine eggs a day. When you do the maths, it's quite a headcount.

Nevertheless, no Superdad worth his salt would shy away from the task of ridding the crowns of his family from such rapacious predators. As usual wifey had found the solution.

Along with a special louse-detection comb, I also applied a coconut oil-based product called Lice Attack. Each night as battles raged among

the various pirates, dinosaurs etc for control of the bath tub, I used my winning combination on the boys' heads and within no time they were free of the dreaded Superlice. It was 100% effective. Happily my head seemed to be Superlice resistant; I found none playing among my greying follicles and generous dandruff.

Everyone in the house agreed that Superdad had rid the world of Superlice, although I reckon the boys would rather a few had stayed on to allow for a longer, wetter war of attrition between the battling factions. But as I've since observed, the pirates always win anyway.

Boo!

'Leaf shine' can be sprayed on, it soon dries and enhances the foliage – particularly dark leaves." A lot of Joan's flowers came from Holland, but she also brought greenery from her own garden. One shrub she used later in the evening was said to be the late Queen Mother's favourite, it is known as Christmas Box.

The third arrangement was a modern 'Five Flowers and Foliage' and in this Joan used rolled New Zealand flax leaves, golden conifer, some berries and five brilliant orange daisies. A stunning effect! Fourth came a traditional 'triangle' arrangement. This was most elegant and contained stocks, carnations and roses. Lastly came a 'Woodland Scene' – an 'L' shape positioned by a lovely piece of upright

driftwood.

Joan used ferns, ivy, irises, tulips, Michaelmas daisies and daffodils and she warned us to be careful with the stems of these – they are tricky to push into oasis, also that daffodils and tulips don't like each other!

Joan said care should be taken when choosing flowers for church arrangements – blue is a 'receding' colour. Ideas and methods were discussed and altogether it was a most enjoyable and relaxing evening.

Diary dates: 12 April Hosting Gardening Quiz Night at Martley Village Hall

26 April Guy Lloyd – 'A personal view of Mexico'.

Tina Steele

Martley Parish Council

I regret to inform readers that the minutes for Martley Parish Council will no longer be published in the Villager. The clerk to the parish council informed me that edited minutes would not be acceptable and that the minutes could only appear if they were printed in their entirety, unedited. Unfortunately, the unabridged version of the minutes usually runs to five-six pages and would severely limit the space available for articles from local correspondents.

As editor of the community magazine, I feel my duty is to publish articles written by local people for local peo-

ple, to entertain and inform readers and to create a sense of community based on shared ideas and values. Editing down or cutting out articles by local writers will be to the detriment of readers, correspondents and the wider community, in my view.

I have been advised by the clerk that in future anyone who wants to read the minutes should log on to www.martley.org.uk Please contact the clerk to Martley Parish Council with any queries .

Meanwhile, the minutes of Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council will continue as usual to be edited and published in the Villager.

The editor

Martley Memorial Hall

After 10 years as chairman, David Cropp has retired from his position as chairman of the Hall Committee, while still remaining on the Management Committee.

I am sure my fellow committee members would like to join me in thanking Dave for all the hard work he has put in over this decade. He has obtained grants towards getting things done such as renovation of the kitchen, new curtains for the main hall etc, as well as doing mundane things like changing light bulbs and clock batteries, clearing gutters and all those other little 'household' jobs that need doing on a daily basis; finding and booking various forms of entertainment, brewing

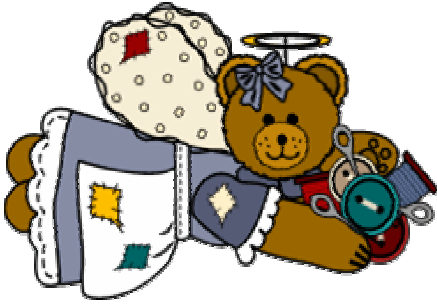
up mulled wine at Christmas Fairs and loads of other things to help keep this essential village establishment going. Best wishes go to the incoming Chairman, Richard McHugh.

Beth Williams

Martley's Past

1864 – In William Barnes' last year, asked of Martley's School, before Michael Coleman took over, he wrote on 24 February this year: "The Rev H J Hastings gave scripture lesson to First Class (7s to 8s) 9.15 to 10. Few children at school. Absentees from sickness. Cautioned the boys against writing on gates or walls on their way to and from school. Sent Thomas Sanders of Second Class (8s to 9s) with A

Pre-School Snippets



Spring has always been the season for taking pleasure in nature blooming around us; the children at Pre-School are no exception. With growing as the focus topic, the children have been planting seeds and learning about what plants need to grow and watching it as it happens. Jack and the Beanstalk was one of the stories the children explored: Fee Fi Fo Fum, watch out everyone, here I come... There were oohs and aahs all round when the children brought in their baby photos and thought about how much they had grown. It brings a smile when the 3 and 4 year olds think of themselves as very grown up compared to the littler ones.

We would like to welcome Liam Arnold. He is the third in his family to join us and we are delighted.

We are over half way through the school year and, before we know it, our older ones will move on to Primary School.

Pre-School prepares our children for this experience. The children are familiar with the actual site, have played with many of the older children in the playground, have eaten lunch in the Primary School hall and recognise many of the teachers' faces. Of course, they have spent much time together learning to co-operate, listen to each other's ideas, follow routines and gained confidence in spending time away from home. If you are interested in a place for your child, please call 01886 889127. We take children from 2 years and, from the term after their third birthday, six sessions are government funded.

Congratulations Corner: Happy Birthday to Harrison Gibbins who turns 4 this month and to Mia John who is now a big sister!

Martley & District Pre-School: 01886 889127

Sue Gibbins

Andrews of First Class for the former to erase some chalk marks on stiles and gates on his way home. Morning duty 9 to 12.10, afternoon duty 1.45 to 4.30. Practised Psalmody 3.30 to 4.20."

The Thomas Sanders who was making chalk marks is of course the T W

Sanders who grew up to edit 'Amateur Gardening' for 40 years, and was the subject of the book 'The Lost Gardener' by David Cropp.

A L Boon



Red nose day at Martley primary school

On March 16 children raised £279.26 for comic relief by holding a cake sale and also selling red noses around the villager. Well done to all the children, parents and teaches involved.

Welcome to Martley

Paul and Ann Denning have just moved (late February) into Rectory Cottage. We welcome them to the village and hope they will be very happy here.

Worcestershire Association of Carers News

There are currently 10 carers groups that meet in Worcestershire – and one of them is in Martley. Meetings are a chance for carers to share experiences, get information or just have a break.

For more information, call Maggie on 01905 26500.

A new online service makes it easier for disabled people with blue badges to find a parking bay. Find it at <http://bluebadge.direct.gov.uk/> (no www!).

You can search by town or by post-code – handy if you are driving to somewhere you haven't been before.

WINN (Worcestershire Integrated Neighbourhood Network) is a government project running in Evesham, Redditch and parts of Worcester.

Its aims to increase preventative services for older people and so reduce the need for severe intervention later. Projects it supports are: well-check (an initial assessment procedure), footcare, expert patient programme (encourages self-management), advocacy (help with paperwork, legal and financial matters); befriending service and a Mobile Occupational Therapy Unit. Call 07926 171446 for more information.

The Alzheimer's Society has a helpline that operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It is run by volunteers who offer help, advice and information. Call them on 01905 763322.

Are you caring for someone with mental health issues? If so, you are not alone! The Worcester Association of Carers





Golden wedding celebrations

Congratulatoins to June and George Lawrence of

Martley Newtown, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on March 16.

June and George have been responsible since the inception of the Villager for the primary distribution of the magazine through a network of unsung distributors in Martley village and Newtown. This vital function often goes unnoticed by our readers, but without their involvement the maga-

zine could not be circulated.

The chairman and committee of the Villager take this opportunity to put on record their appreciation of the dedication of June and George over the years. We hope they will continue to enjoy their retirement in Martley for many years.

Jim Sanderson

The Editor would like to apologise for failing to publish news of June and George's party. The oversight was due to unforeseen circumstance and we hope it did not adversely affect the celebrations on the day.

The editor

runs courses from time to time to help you understand the process of diagnosis, treatment, medications, coping skills and generally how to find your way around the system. For more information call the Association on 01905 26500.

Michelle Higgins

Dawn chorus breakfast

Saturday May 5th

Join us for a walk to Almshouse Wood led by Garth Lowe and Dai Jones to hear the dawn chorus and see the orchids, bluebells etc starting from Pewcroft Farm, Suckley Road, Knightwick.

After the walk there will be a mega breakfast of grapefruit, yogurt, cereals,

bacon, eggs, sausages, beans, mushrooms, fried bread, croissants, toast, jam, marmalade and as much fruit-juice, tea, and coffee as you want!

All profits to Suckley church

To join us we challenge you to be up with the birds! The walk starts at 6.00

Martley Library

Martley Village Hall, Berrow Green Road, Martley, WR66PQ.

Tel: 01886 888396

Opening hours

Mon 2.00-7.00

Wed 4.00-7.30

Thurs 10.00-1.00

Fri 2.00-4.00

Tesco Sports scheme



Parents and friends of Martley Primary School have received equipment for three-legged race ties, sacks for sack races, egg and spoon equipment and 12 tennis racquets. The equipment was received as a result of collecting vouchers for the Tesco Sport scheme.

We would like to thank Mary at Martley Post Office for collecting the vouchers and then spending many hours counting them on our behalf.

We are once again collecting Sainsbury's vouchers for sport equipment and Tesco vouchers for computers for schools, so please continue to take your vouchers into the village post office. All vouchers gratefully received.

Mrs Jane Install

am and is £6. Hurry because the numbers are limited, so if you are interested phone Jill Hammonds on 01886 884221 to reserve your place.

The following day, Sunday May 6th, join Brian Draper's river Teme coach trip. Spend a relaxing day with Brian

as your guide. His knowledge and humour are renowned.

The day trip will start from Suckley Village Hall and visit many of the delightful parts of the Teme including Burford House, Tenbury, Ludlow, Offa's Dyke Centre, Knighton and reaching the river's source.

You can bring your own picnic if you wish, but stops will be made for you to buy coffee, lunch and tea en route.

We can promise a great day out, you may learn a bit, and you will certainly laugh a bit at Brian's tales of the villages, customs, churches, nature and history on and around the River Teme. Phone John Hammonds on 01886 884221.

The price will be £12 - £15, according to numbers and the size of coach. All profits will go to Suckley village hall.

Get well wishes

On behalf of the Villager and the parishes, we would like to wish Reverend Sherwin a speedy recovery and hope that Chucky and his family are looking after him!

Goodbye Derrick

The Villager would like to say goodbye and happy retirement to Derrick Browne, the printer of the Villager for the past two years.



The St Peter's church bestiary

You don't have to be a believer to enjoy the hidden history that lives inside the average parish church. St Peter's of Martley is a good example of an ancient institution that hides millennia of history and folklore woven into the life of the local community.

In an occasional feature on the local parish churches, the Villager looks at aspects of hidden stories lying just below the surface of life in Martley and Wichenford.

Next time you're passing St Peter's walk straight up through the church to the wall behind the altar and there you will find a set of eight running animals painted on the wall. These paintings date back to AD1250 and are acknowledged by experts to be the finest medieval bestiary anywhere in the country.

Although the meaning behind them is lost to most observers these days, the bestiary would have been well known to the locals attending church some 800 years ago in Martley. All the

beasts apart from the hart would have represented some form of temptation sent to entrap the unwitting soul by the devil. Indeed, in an age of almost universal illiteracy these animals would have sent out a powerful message to the congregation.

- The hare represented lechery, given its ability to breed in huge numbers.
- The wolf stole sheep and the lord was thy shepherd.
- The fox was known for his cunning deceit and symbolised religious hypocrisy.
- The dragon was the devil incarnate and leapt on sinners, strangling them with its tail before dragging them to hell.

The hart, meanwhile, could kill dragons and represented the battle for good over evil.

Interestingly, four dragons are painted on the wall, possibly to reinforce the idea that wrongdoing was a sin punished by a trip to hell for eternity. Gruesome stuff for the laity, but an integral part of the fabric of life for Martley's ancestors.

AC



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

Equestrian day out

The revived bluebell woods ride will take place on Sunday, April 22 in aid of Wichenford Church, the Memorial Hall, Millennium Green, St Richards Hospice and Acorns Hospice.

The ride will be about 10 miles through Bluebell Woods and fields with many optional jumps of all shapes and sizes.

There hasn't been a ride now for about 10 years. Mrs. Britten used to hold carriage driving events round the farm, but they could never go through the woods because the tracks were so narrow.

The first time we organised it, we had about 60 riders and the numbers increased during the next few years. But then our wonderful organisers either left the village or ran out of steam and we never did it again. As so many people have asked to be able to visit the Bluebell Woods in recent years, we decided that we should revive the event and have a great day out.

No dogs are allowed and hard hats and adequate protection must be worn. WCs and first aid are on hand and a vet and doctor are on call. Entries on the day: adults £15, children (under 14) £10. Please contact Georgina on

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS



Janet Andrews

01886 888303

Sheila Richards

01886 888378

gblwichenford@aol.com or call 07767 788 273 or 07725 608411.

All riders must have their own insurance and valid horse passports. Please remember that those taking part do so at their own risk and the organisers accept no liability for damage to persons, horses, or property. See you there.

Georgina Britten Long

Flower Rota

- 1 April Palm Sunday – No Service
- 9 April Easter decorations
- 15 April Easter decorations
- 22 April Mrs Randall
- 29 April Mrs A Banks

Annual Church Meeting

24 April, 7.30pm in the Church.

Ladies Fellowship

17 April, 2.30pm, venue to be decided

Wichenford 100 Club

February winner: P. Harris. No. 151. £100.

Millennium Green tidying and inspection rota

April: Harriet Howell

Wichenford Memorial Hall

Members of Wichenford Memorial Hall Management Committee wish to thank everyone who supported "An Evening with Brian Draper" held at the Memorial Hall recently. We raised a very useful £120.

Well done to Brian Draper MBE for an excellent talk illustrated by slides on the Warwickshire Avon. Thank you to everyone who provided refreshments and raffle prizes, which were all donated.

Thank you to the ladies who spent their valuable time in the kitchen both before the talk began and during the break time.

Everyone enjoyed a very nice evening and the Committee Members are very appreciative of your support as we need to continue to raise funds for our refurbishment programme. Once again many thanks.

*Margaret H Fisher
Secretary to Wichenford Memorial
Hall Management Committee*

Thank You

Eddie and Joyce Wadley and the family wish to thank everyone for their cards and kind messages of sympathy in the sad loss of their son, Michael.

Wichenford Open Gardens

This year the gardens will be open on 23 and 24 June. Please will all Wichenford's excellent cooks let us have their favourite recipes for the cook book. Tel: 01996-888158, mobile: 0780-3077121.

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Edited minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th March 2007 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Councillor Britten-Long Chaired the meeting. (Chairman).

Present

Cllr D.Stinton, Cllr J Panton, CllrM. Andrews, Cllr H Rendall, Cllr A Chilvers. County Cllr A Davies District Cllr B Williams.

In Attendance: Mrs S Sanders (Clerk to the Parish Council).

Democratic half hour/public question time.

The chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about parish business.

Apologies and approval of absence; Cllr N Oldfield, (accepted) Cllr K Randall (accepted), Cllr J Wells (accepted)

Declaration of interest

The clerk reminded every-one of the need to declare interests and to keep the book up to date. No interests were declared.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2007 were accepted and signed as a true record.

Progress reports

Guises/Rosses Lane.

The temporary closure order has been advertised in the local press. The new TRO commenced on February 18th. The objections received to these orders could not be resolved by the County Council and has been passed to the Secretary of State for confirmation. An independent inspector will decide whether they should be resolved by written representations, a hearing, or a local public enquiry.

Planning

Applications considered since the last meeting.

07/00034/Ful. Amended plans for Woodbine Cottage.

07/00041/LBC. Cob House Farm. Minor alteration to internal layout, doors and windows.

The parish council had no objection to this proposal.

Decisions made by MHDC

06/01653/FUL Kenswick Manor Lodge. (All weather sand equine manege and access drive to existing barn and stables.). Refused.

06/01487/LBC – 01486/FUL. Woodhall Farm (demolition of modern farm buildings and the conversion of traditional farm buildings to residential use). Withdrawn.

Applications to be discussed

07/00260/FUL. Two storey domestic extension for Coronation Cottage.

07/00257/FUL. Oak framed two-bay outbuilding. 4 Kenswick Manor. The clerk was asked to find the previous applications for this property.

A site visit was arranged to both of these applications for 19th March.

07/00233/Ful. Kenswick Manor Lodge. Change of use from pasture land to all weather equine sand manege for private use. The parish council has no objection in principle, but would strongly object should the manege ever be used commercially.


07/00291/FUL. Creation of new access onto B4204. 1 Woodhall Cottages.

The Parish Council has no objection providing highways are in agreement.

Finance

The income/ expenditure account was discussed and accepted.

The balance up to the 28th Feb 2007 stands at £10,233.73.



Mobile Library

The mobile library visits Wichenford on the first Wednesday of every month. We do not want to lose it, so please use it.

Wichenford, Malvern View
10am-10.30am
Wichenford Church
10.35am-11am
Wichenford, Kings Green Farm
11.05am-11.35am
Wichenford, Rosses Green
11.40am-12.10pm

There were 2 cheques totaling £1,099.80 for agreement and signature. The acceptance of the finances was resolved.

King's green (Management Plan)

It was resolved to put this item on the next agenda as only three replies out of 8 have been received and each one of these is different.

Highways

Malvern Hills Transport Partnership Grant was discussed and taken by the chairman to read.

Parish paths partnership scheme

The parish council's application to participate in the scheme was received late and no grant was given for 06/07. The county council will need to consider the End of Year reports before considering new applications. The report was 16 pages long and time consuming. The path wardens have asked for the report to be sent electronically, so that it can be dealt with easier.

Parliamentary candidates

It was resolved not to invite any of the parliamentary candidates to the parish council meetings.

Vision 21 report

A written report was given to each councillor on the Vision 21 meeting that was held at The Bank House on 28th Feb.

Workshops were held covering a range of subjects, the most interesting being climate change, community planning and affordable housing.

It was felt that the conference was generally beneficial but the workshops although instructive did not afford sufficient participation or indeed time for

topics to be explored in greater detail.

Correspondence, included

Newsline magazine, Parish Paths Partnership Scheme, WCC Bus Bulletin Report, Worcestershire Rail Newsletter. Green-Field Takeaway. Email regarding Rosses & Guises lanes. Worcestershire Warden. Speaking – out Magazine. Worcestershire Calc Mail. Parliamentary candidates and calc briefing. Laughern valley travel letter. Lindridge PC reply, Audit Commission.

Abberley Parish clerk has replied to the parish council's email regarding litter picking.

An email from Martley Parish Council regarding the editing of the minutes in the villager was read out. It was resolved that this parish council is happy for the editor to continue editing it's minutes providing a proviso is put in explaining this.

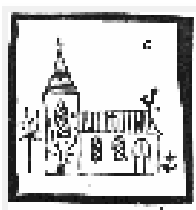
The clerk informed councillors that she had received the candidates' nomination forms for the election. Posters have been put up advertising the elections on 3rd May. Councillors and parishioners wanting to stand will be given nomination papers.

Councillor's reports and items for future agendas

The clerk was asked to report potholes outside Ridgend Farm and along Ockeridge road.

Small groups have been caught vandalising The Millennium Green.

Next meeting; 30th April at 7.30pm. This will be the APM/ordinary meeting.



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 833897

When we talk of riches we think in monetary terms, but the richness of the Church is expressed in many other different ways and rises from the Easter story when Jesus rose from the tomb (the festival which we shall celebrate soon – Sunday 8th April).

Contrary to the belief of some, the Church gains no revenue from Easter Eggs!! Most of its riches or richness come in the form of the gifts God showers upon his Church. That is his people – awe, wonder, joy, hope, fellowship, comfort, new life, peace, sharing, the knowledge that there is always someone there who is available to help in times of deepest need, and many more that I'm sure you can think of.

Riches that begin with the love of God for the whole of his creation; riches which reach their pinnacle in God's gift of Himself in Jesus Christ, the baby we welcomed at Christmas. This babe now offers his life on our behalf so that our fears are removed and our hope of future new life assured.

On Palm Sunday we welcome him with shouts of Hosanna and the waving of palm branches. (Outdoor Service on Sunday April 1st at Laylocks with donkey at 11.00am) and on that same day you have the opportunity to come and see how the fickleness of the

crowds is reflected in the Passion of Jesus Christ both then and in our modern world, in our presentation of 'Remember Me' by John Bell at Broadwas Church at 6.30pm.

On Good Friday we recall his crucifixion – who can remain blind to the agony he endured? Who can ignore his cries? Who can be deaf and blind to the sacrifice of God himself on that cross of shame? Why not pause for a moment in your busy life and join us at Martley Church for half an hour or more between 12noon and 3pm or spend a moment or two of reflection in any of the Benefice Churches which will all be open.

Yet into our pain, our agony, our mourning, comes the risen Christ. New life bursts forth from what appears life-less and offers each one of us hope.

In our world where so much pain is felt, so much anger expressed, so much hatred and violence witnessed, let's look upon that empty cross and acknowledge that in the darkness, the light of Christ, shining through his resurrection from the tomb, is a real and tangible source of hope for each one of us and for the world. Come and celebrate on Easter Sunday the riches God offers.

Rev'd Jennifer Whittaker

Church Diary for April

Sunday 1st April	11.00am Benefice Service at Laylocks Nursery Holy Week
Monday 2nd April	9-11am Reflections and Prayers, Knightwick Chapel 9.00pm Compline, St. Laurence, Wichenford
Tuesday 3rd April	9.00pm Compline, St Peter, Martley
Wednesday 4th April	9.00pm Compline, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Thursday 5th April	12noon Chrism Service, Worcester Cathedral 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
Friday 6th April	ALL Churches across the Benefice will be open 12noon-3.00pm 3 hour reflection, St Peter, Martley 9.00pm Compline, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Saturday 7th April	9.00pm Tenebre Service, Knightwick Chapel
Sunday 8th April	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Easter Day Celebration, St Peter, Martley
Monday 9th April	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 11th Apr	10.15am Songs of Praise at Heaton House
Sunday 15th April	8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00am Morning Worship, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel
Monday 16th April	9.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter, Martley
Sunday 22nd April	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
Monday 23rd April	9.00am Morning Prayer at St Mary Magdalene
Tuesday 24th April	7.30pm PCC AGM, Wichenford
Wednesday 25th Apr	10.15 Holy Communion at Heaton House 7.30 PCC AGM, Martley
Thursday 26th April	2.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter, Martley
Sunday 29th April	6.30pm Benefice Songs of Praise, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Monday 30 th April	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford

You've taken a break

This month we publish the results of the past three crosswords. Look out for more crosswords next month.

Crossword results: November

ACROSS;1.HARVESTS 7.CROSS 8.LEUKAEMIA 9.FIR 10.SIDE
11.ELDERS 13.CEDARS 14.AZALEA 17.DEVOUT 18.LIMB 20.S.A.E
22.ASCENSION 23.DEVIL 24.GODSPEED
DOWN;1.HALTS 2.ROUNDED 3.ESAU 4.TEMPLE 5.COIFS 6.TSARINA
7.CADENZA 12.TRIVIAL 13.CRUSADE 15.LAICIZE 16.NUNCIO
17.DELVE 19.BONED 21.ONUS.

Crossword results: February

ACROSS;1.MEND 5.TEST 7.OBADIAH 8.BALLADES 10.RUIN 12.SOAR
14.GOOD FOOD 16.STRADDLE 17.RAIL 18.JETS 19.ACTUATES
22.DOORMAT 23.NAPE 24.SAIL
DOWN;1.MOAB 2.DOLL 3.BANDAGED 4.BIAS 5.THURIFER 6.THIN
9.APOSTLE 11.IDOLISE 13.ROADSIDE 15.OVERTIME 18.JOHN 19.ATOP
20.ACTS 21.SAUL

Crossword results: March

ACROSS;1.CANDLE 4.MASTER 7.CHRISTMAS 9.KOHL 10.RANG
11.JEWEL 13.RAISED 14.REVVED 15.ARTFUL 17.TSETSE 19.SIGHT
20.GRAB 22.SONG 23.NESTOR IAN 24.SATURN 25.XMASES
DOWN;1.COOKER 2.DAHL 3.EXITED 4.MOTHER 5.STAR 6.RAGGED
7.CHRISTIAN 8.SALVATION 11.JESUS 12.LEAST 15.ANGELS
16.LISTEN 17.THORAX 18.EAGLES 21.BEAU 22.SAGA

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