

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 17 No. 11

April 2008

Editor: Michelle Higgins (01886888344)

Editorial Team: Martley Alan Boon (01886 888527), Nellie Bradley (01886 888339), Kate King (01886 888439), Beth Williams (01886 888273) Wichenford Janet Andrews (01886 888303), Sheila Richards (01886 888378)

Advertising: vacancy. Contact 01886 888393

Distribution: Martley George & June Lawrence (01886 821064) Wichenford Bill & Jo Root (01886 888585)

Contact The Villager: Leave articles at Martley Post Office, call Janet or Sheila (Wichenford) or email the Editor at editor@martley.org

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

Rhythm Time: 9.30-11.30am Martley Memorial Hall Enq. Rachel 01886 812565
Martley Parish Council: 1st Monday in the month 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)

Martley Mums and Tots: 9.30-11.30am
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

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 on page 27 for details of services

See articles inside 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



Martley Pre-School Snippets

Our topic for this half term has been 'Jungle animals'. The children made a large model crocodile from junk, baked cheese straw snakes, hunted animals hidden in the garden and played on the tail on the tiger and much more.



Don't forget! Martley Pre-School is a registered eco-setting with 20 years of history, where children can attend pre-school from two years old. They will learn through play and fun activities and do not have to be out of nappies! They are entitled to 15 hours per week free care funded by the government, starting from the term after their third birthday. We also provide very popular breakfast (8-9am) and after school clubs (3.15-6pm) for children aged 2 to 13 years. There are many activities available indoors and outdoors, including sports, game console, art, craft, cookery, ICT and much more. If you need any information, or would like to book a place for your child please feel free to call Kath or Lucy

on 01886 889127 or visit our website.

Heart of Martley appeal

As you may have heard on BBC Hereford & Worcester, or read in The Worcester News, we launched a major fundraising appeal last month. We need to raise £15,000 for a new heating and electrical installations. The last boiler has served us well but has now given up on us. Our landlords (Worcestershire County Council) have said they cannot help us, so we are looking to companies, organisations and families to help us (a registered charity) to keep the heart of the village and our children warm. 'Heart of Martley appeal' posters are displayed throughout the village, collection points for donations are Martley Post Office, Central Stores and the Pre-School. You can also download a donation form from www.martleypreschool.co.uk and gift aid it too.

Many thanks for donations last month go to E.H Smith (Builders), S. Pitt and R. Millichip, L & K Albutt, The Price Family, Harry Pound (who donated the savings from his pocket money of 10p), Morleys of Bicester, A & J Williams, Ormerod Rutter (Chartered

accountants) and K. M Letting.

A cake sale at Martley CE Primary School also raised £112 towards the appeal last month, bringing our current total raised to £900.

Recycle your old mobile phone and inkjet cartridges

Recycle your old mobile phone and printer cartridges. Collection points are at Martley Post Office and Central stores. Every phone and cartridge recycled benefits the environment and Martley Pre-School and out-of-school clubs. Last year recycling raised over £200. Thank you

Kathryn Smith

The Editor apologises for the omission of Pre-School Snippets from the March issue of The Villager.

Ruby Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Marg and Ray Rushgrove, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 16 March. Many congratulations and lots of love from all your family and friends.

Thank You(th)!

One cold and crisp day during the Christmas holidays I put sixty posters through the letter boxes of young Martley residents – the purpose; to ask the youth of this community what they would like to see and do in Martley.

I am delighted to report that I had many creative and thoughtful ideas in response to my 'Youth In Martley Matters' (YIMMs) poster campaign and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the



following young people who responded so well to my campaign and to briefly share some of their ideas: Tom Carter for initiating a petition and asking all his friends to sign it to request a portable five-a-side football kit, to Tawri of Hastings Close who would like to see a girls football team amongst other things, to Molly Graham & Tia Webb who jointly responded with ideas such as archery and rock climbing and to India Caleb who would like to see a skate park in the village. I would also like to thank Mr Blazak, the one adult that responded, an ex-Youth Worker, of Pudford Lane, who has kindly offered his help in future plans. Thank you to all of the young people who put so much time and effort into these important and worthwhile contributions.

I am very excited to say that that nearly all of your ideas are in the pipeline and in one form or another you will be seeing the outcome of your ideas very soon.

I am currently planning a community fun day at the Chantry High School to be held in the spring. The young people will hear about this through the Primary School and the Chantry High School, so keep your eyes and ears peeled and watch this space!

Cllr. Mrs Emma Rothwell

(We are also working on creating a YIMMs presence on the Martley website (martley.org.uk) and possibly also in The Villager – Ed.)



Teme Valley Views

Post-natal classes

Our 7th post-natal course will start on 29 April at Upper Sapey Village Hall and will run for four weeks. If you have a new baby, this is a perfect opportunity to meet other parents with similar-aged children and learn about issues relevant to you. The importance of postnatal support was identified earlier on by the Children's Centre and the first post-natal group took place in 2004. Many of the mums who met at this first session are still in touch and meet regularly with their children.

A range of experts visit the course to discuss feeding, sleeping, dental hygiene and weaning over a sociable cup of tea. The sessions are also a perfect opportunity to hear about the many services provided by the Teme Valley Children's Centre and introductory sessions on baby massage and paediatric first aid are planned. Crèche facilities are provided for older children at this free course and refreshments are available.

This is a great way to meet new friends, so if you are interested in joining us at the postnatal course please contact Sam at the Children's Centre (01886 812982). Further details about the services provided by the Children's Centre can be found in our monthly newsletter, Teme Valley Views, or on our website www.temevalley-cc.org.uk.

temevalley-cc.org.uk.

Biannual Nearly New Sale

The biannual Nearly New Sales are highlights of the year for the Children's Centre. The next sale is on 12 April, so if you have any items you would like to sell, bring them to Great Witley Village Hall.

Quiz Night

Following our successful autumn quiz, we will be holding a spring family quiz night on Friday 9 May in Martley Village Hall. Teams of four as usual. Tickets will cost £5 a head and will include supper. Everyone, including youngsters, are invited to take part. Further details will be published in the May issue of The Villager.



Martley Web Mesh

AGM 18 April

Martley Web Mesh will be holding its AGM at 6.30pm on Friday 18 April in the Committee Room of the Martley Memorial Hall.

News!

MWM has recently received a prestigious grant that will allow expansion of its service to new areas in and around Martley and to replace some of the older equipment.

If you are interested in receiving locally-produced, competitively-priced broadband services, or just to find out more information, see the broadband page on the Martley website (Martley.org.uk) or contact Richard Jackman (01886 821237 or

07791 277 763 or richard@martley.org) or John Layton (01886 888460 or johnl@martley.org).

If you have some time available and expertise and would like to get involved with the technical side of MWM or, indeed, with the paperwork, please contact Richard or John as well.

Open Garden and Craft Sale

The garden at No 1 The Bungalows, Hockams Lane, Martley will be open to the public on Saturday 12 April and Sunday 13 April. Refreshments will be available and plants will be on sale. The occasion will also include a sale of Nepalese jewellery and other beautiful handicrafts created by the women of Nepal. The proceeds of the sale will go to the Nepalese women who produce these lovely objects. For further information please ring Megan Griffiths on 01886 812523.



Michael Morris

Following a write-up in January's magazine from Mr Gordon Griffiths, regarding Mr Michael Morris, I feel it is necessary to add the thanks from the Recreation Association also.

Michael has spent many hours, come rain or shine, maintaining the Martley

playing field, mowing, rolling, strimming, etc. all in his own time with his own equipment.

I would also like to thank his wife, Lillian, for her unrewarded time in undertaking the cleaning, and up-keep of the Martley sports pavilion. Once again, many thanks to you both.

Len Hoskins

Chairman, Martley Recreation Assoc.

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 13 April

2pm Church Car Park

We meet on the second Sunday in the month.. Starting time is usually 2pm, gathering in the Church Car Park, but watch this space for the occasional variation in starting time, which might vary if much travelling to the venue is involved.

Thank you to Pam Bowers for yet again arranging a very successful annual dinner. Brain boxes this year were the Coombey-Jones who were the winners of the after-dinner quiz. Many thanks also to the staff at the Live and Let Live at Whitbourne for a super meal and excellent service.

The February walk was lead by Dot and Chris Fletcher who took us around Clifton-upon-Teme and Harpley. They managed to avoid the worst of the mud and even arranged for clear views and some sunshine. This month Pam Bowers will be showing us "Another view of Areley". Start time 2pm in the Church Car Park. Please feel free to join us. Just turn up with walking boots ready.

Kate King



Martley WI

**Wednesday 9 April, 7.30pm
at Heaton House**

This year, courtesy of our speakers, we have been to Cornwall and back with Rosemary Prosser, along the Teme Valley with Brian Draper and now, this month, we are off for a cycle ride “Around the Ring of Kerry” with Ray Sturdy. We may be fortified with a drop of the hard stuff - or so he says! We must have itchy feet to be off and about like this, but we are always happy to have visitors to join us. The competition is for an unusual drink in a bottle – preferably non-toxic. Our quiz team did not reach the finals in the recent County Quiz, but they can keep their heads up high as they were in the top range, and all enjoyed the evening held at Alfrick.

Kate King

Martley Spurs

The Saturday eleven are still playing very much below par. They were thrashed 7-1 by Upton Town on 2 February, had no fixture on the 9th, but did well on the 16th, managing to beat VBL Sports 5-4 on penalties after drawing two all at full time. However the good work did not last as they lost the last league game of the month to Grovesnor Sports.

The Sunday Premier side are doing much better; they overcame Powick 3-1 at home on Sunday 3 February,

when they reached the semi-final of the Katherine Rayer Cup. This was followed by a 7-1 win over Droitwich Spa the next weekend. James Houston got a hat trick and Neil Harrison netted a pair. They followed up this win with another on the last Sunday of the month by winning their away game with AFC Mazak by three goals to one. The reserves are not faring too well at the moment, they played Hallow Village on the 3rd and the Bridge on the 10th, a match which they lost 4-1, and they played the Bridge again on the 24th, which they again lost, this time by three goals to one.

Beth Williams

Martley and District Horticultural Society

February's meeting had an interesting talk by Robin Pearce entitled “Ferns and Grasses”. Robin had brought several specimens with him. He told us that his wife is the fern specialist and the grasses are his “thing” – and very knowledgeable about them he proved to be.

He showed beautiful slides of gardens growing many different varieties, some tiny, some enormous and the foliage and flowers are all different. One slide was of Gertrude Jekyll's favourite grass, a very spready one. The RHS Wisley garden has a wonderful grass border. We also saw a Dutch garden. Some grasses were shown off by white pebbles, stones and rocks.

Robin warned us to read labels carefully when buying – some grasses

are very invasive. Many can be grown from seed. Certain varieties rustle and rattle in the wind. There are intriguing names – Little Bunny, Little Honey, Heavy Metal (a gunmetal grey). Most can be split up and divided.

Robin mentioned sedges, which have three-sided stalks and many interesting varieties come from New Zealand. About ferns, Robin said “Never let them dry out – they will die if this happens”. Some are evergreen. All do better in shade.

Robin finished with a plan of World’s End garden at Hallow, his nursery, which supplies Webb’s, amongst other garden centres. AN interesting evening provided by this ex-ICI employee, and we all went home knowing a little more about the vast subject of ferns and grasses.

The next meeting is 24 April. John Guest will talk about “Old Garden Tools”- perhaps you have some you’d like to bring! (Spouses included).

Tina Steele

Pudford Lane

The primroses and violets have been a lovely sight along the banks and it looks as if the bluebells will be equally splendid. Orchids have not yet begun to show any signs of movement, which is just as well as the variable weather we have had over the last year or so does wreak havoc with the timing of the cutting programme.

Welcome to Alison and Darren Knight, Jamie and Leah who have moved into The Coppice. We do hope they enjoy living there. Another new

arrival is Cromwell to Hillend Farm. No, not Oliver of dubious reputation, although he, or some of his men, have reputedly been seen and heard over the years since bombarding Homme Castle from Rodge Hill during the Civil War. We do have a cannon ball retrieved locally. Perhaps it has some DNA traces on it. It is said that land with a cottage on Shelsley Common was given to one of his captains. The remains of a few pieces of walls are all that can be seen, but there is always a lovely show of snowdrops in the spring. Cromwell, the new arrival, is a Hungarian Vizsla. (*answer below)

The usual discarded sandwiches and lunches continue to add to the litter in the lay-by, but recent dumping of 34 drinks cans must point to someone have a serious problem. Contact for Alcoholics Anonymous is 0845 769 7555.

Kate King

ᄇᄇ ᄇᄇᄇᄇᄇ ᄇᄇ ᄇᄇᄇ ᄇᄇ *

Martley’s Past

For a change, an extract from Berrow’s Journal, 1932, from an article on Martley’s Past:

“The Agricultural Labourers’ Strike of 1872.

Canon Henry James Hastings’ son, John Parsons Hastings, who had held the rectory for more than thirty years, had already been in Orders for a previous 30, of which he had served 20 at Arley Kings. Like his father, he is represented in the Library of the British Museum, where there is a

pamphlet issued by him in 1872, that rapidly went through several editions, in which he discussed the duty of the Board of Guardians during a strike of Agricultural Labourers. The pamphlet was printed by W Easton of Stourport, but published by a leading London firm. The strike was organised by the celebrated Joseph Arch, and sought to get an increase of three shillings (15p) a week in wages, and a reduction of hours of labour to 54 per week.

Mr Hastings' booklet aimed at guiding local Boards of Guardians in this emergency; and as one familiar with the administration of the Poor Law, he advised against grants of outdoor relief in supplement of strike pay. The expense would fall mainly on the farmers; and it would be unfair to make them in effect contribute to the war-chest of their antagonists. But the main interest in Mr Hastings' book centre in a mass of carefully collected information as to the position of the agricultural labourer; a forecast of the

ultimate effect of proposed economic changes; and a plea for a 'National Club', upon lines scarcely distinguishable from the Health and Employment schemes, which 40 years later advanced politicians conferred upon the 'Industrial' community, but omitted to extend to those for whom Mr Hastings pleaded.

A perusal of the pamphlet discloses an intelligent, well-informed and thoughtful man, of an intellectual calibre which I am afraid was not always recognised by his contemporaries."

A L Boon

Martley Parish Council

General meeting held on Monday 4 February 2008

Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp (Chair). Three members of the public attended.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

It was reported that a lorry had broken down on Ankerdine Hill recently blocking the Hill for two hours. There were concerns regarding the lack of a police presence and the weight restriction still being ignored by some vehicles. The Clerk will write to businesses trading on Maylite reminding them of the weight restrictions on the hill and send copies to the Parishioner, the Freight Haulage Association, Highways partnership and Councillor Mr. A. Davies.

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2008:

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record, after one amendment.



The Agricultural Labourers' Union

District Councillor's report:

Councillor. Mrs. B. Williams reported that The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) had been returned by Baroness Andrews asking for further investigation into the figures. Councillor Williams confirmed that the council tax has not yet been set for next year, then commended Councillor Rothwell for her work with Martley youth and recognised her as a credit to Martley Parish Council.

County Councillor's report:

Councillor Mr. A. Davies referred to the return of the RSS. He confirmed that WCC has been allocated a couple more million from the government for next year's budget, which will mean this year's council tax increase will be lower than last year's. Councillor Davies discussed work on speed limits that is being carried out by a WCC committee and which is to be complete by 2010. WCC are to review all speed limits within the county in order to achieve more consistency. They are prioritising areas by accident ratio with the worst first. Councillor Davies will let the Parish Council know when Martley is to be reviewed. He confirmed that the Police Authority is represented on the committee to ensure enforcement.

Domain name: The Clerk and Councillor Williams are to ascertain whether there are still plans to incorporate Parish Council websites into the MHDC Hub. The Clerk is to look into whether there is a hit-counter on the current website.

Concerns over animal waste: The

Clerk gave the Parish Council details of a conversation held with a concerned resident in relation to the excess amounts of dog waste in and around the St. Peters area and the fact that people are either not picking it up at all or placing it in bins that are not relevant for dog waste. The Clerk is to arrange for a notice to be put in The Villager asking people to take it home to dispose of appropriately.

Lengthsman: The Clerk is to speak to Tom Pearsall and MHDC to locate a map that identifies all gulleys within Martley. The Parish Council will then identify priority gulleys and areas, highlight routes and establish a work schedule for the lengthsman.

Youth update: Councillor Rothwell informed The Parish Council that funding has been secured from Wychavon Leisure Community for the 5-A-Side goals and that YIMMS (Youth in Martley Matters) will have a pilot launch day on 26 April 2008 at The Chantry High School. It will be possible for The Parish Council to have a stand there. There will also be: graffiti boards, mobile youth unit, play rangers, young farmers, police, CSO's, Worcestershire Youth Support, skate ramp and the football and cricket clubs. Two further events are being organised: a trip to Drayton Manor and Dragon Boat Racing on the River Severn. Information needs to be delivered to the youth, possibly through The Villager, Martley Web Mesh or a youth board in Martley. The Chantry is to develop a committee to ensure commitment from the youth

too. WCC have given £500 which will be used towards the event along with the £500 allocated to youth work by Martley Parish Council. Further funding for the future will be discussed at the next meeting. The Chair thanked Councillor Rothwell for her work in this area.

Budget for 2008/09:

The Clerk to carry out further work on the budget.

Planning:

Applications received: January 2008: 08/00115/FUL 110 Berrow Green Road. Remove roof, replace roof and rebuild in cavity construction. Approvals/ refusals: 07/01390/FUL Open leisure pool. Withdrawn. 07/01786/LBC Complete rethatching. Approved. Councillor Williams confirmed that The Admiral Rodney application had come to her with recommendation for approval. She has asked that it goes to committee and has advised that Martley Parish Council would like to make representation. Councillors asked if it would be possible to gain feedback as to why the application had been recommended for approval when objections had been raised.

Correspondence:

Included: WCC – Replacement of Pudford Lane sign. MHDC – Rough sleepers. New development name at Jury Lane. WCC – Next years budget (from meeting). WCC – Signage. WCC – Workwise scheme. WCC – Parish Path Wardens Scheme.

Finance:

There were five cheques totalling

£1922.05 for agreement and signature. The accounts were adopted. The Parish Council were happy for Clement Keys to continue as the auditors. The Chair is to investigate the Discretionary Rate Relief applications and they will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Councillor's reports and items for future agendas:

1) The Clerk from Wichenford is to set up a committee of Councillors from local Parish Councils to address the poor standard of work being produced by Highways and how resources and funding are being allocated i.e. the new footbridge behind Kinloss School. Will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and representatives confirmed. 2) Concern was raised over potholes at the bottom of Horsham Lane and the need for re-surfacing as it is now damaging vehicles. Residents will be advised to make photographic evidence and issue to MHDC. 3) The Clerk is to add an agenda item to next meeting to look at community engagement and the possibility of linking this to the AGM. 4) Police are warning residents who are parking on footpaths within Martley. 5) Severn Trent has now covered their previously-open manhole.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 3. March 2008 at 8pm.

Martley News continues on page 24



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



Flower Rota

6 April Mrs A Smith
13 April Mrs A Smith
20 April Mrs M Randall
27 April Rogation Service

Church Council

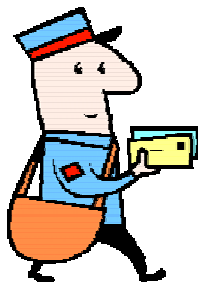
The Annual General Meeting of the Church Council will be held in church on Monday 7 April starting at 7.30pm. This is open to all parishioners who can then learn of the business of the church throughout the year.

Ladies Fellowship

The next Ladies Fellowship meeting will be on Tuesday 15 April at 2.30pm. Venue yet to be arranged.

Thank You

Frank and Mu would like to say a very big 'thank you' to their lovely family, good friends and neighbours for helping to make Frank's surprise 70th birthday party such a happy occasion. Thank you also for all your gifts and kind wishes. Wasn't it a brilliant night?



Baby News



We are very pleased to hear of the arrival of Paige Millie, a baby daughter for David Richards and Becky.

Heartiest congratulations to them and to all the family.

Beatrice Cora Palmer

We are very sorry to hear that Cora has died and send our deepest sympathy to her husband, Alf, and to her sons and their families.

50 Years On

Most of Wichenford now know that John, our postman, is retiring this year and many wish to show their appreciation of his service to us as

'postie' and friend by marking his retirement in a positive manner.

He has been granted his wish to serve a full 50 years with the Post Office and will now retire at the end of July this year. It is our intention to celebrate his retirement with

a presentation to John at our village fete on 26 July. If you have not already made a contribution towards the presentation, but wish to do so, please contact any of the following: Pam Webb, Rosses Lane (01886 888325), Bill Hylan, Venn Lane (01886 888431), Marion Jinks, 20 Queens Estate (01886 888530), Vic Reed, Kenswick (01905 641138), Val Mills, Highfields (01886 888473) or Jo Root, Orchard View (01886 888585).

Wichenford 100 Club February winners

This month's winners are as drawn below:-(drawn by M Hylan)

No 177 M Harris £84.50

And returned subscriptions to:

No.4 M Fellows £12.00

No. 170 J Bennett £12.00

Yet again the draw finds 'its favourites'. While some of us bewail the fact that we have never won once, others rub their hands with glee as they chalk up yet another win. But there again, if you hold lots of numbers like one of our winners, obviously the odds are shorter and the likelihood of one of the numbers turning up are so much the greater!

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

A meeting was arranged for 28 April 2008. This will be an ordinary meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford at 7.30 for 8pm

Many thanks!

I wish to thank most sincerely everyone who sent me cards, messages and flowers on the occasion of my 90th birthday. Also for the generous donations for my chosen charity the "Air Ambulance" It was wonderful: they benefited by £610.00. I really do thank you. Lets hope we have helped someone! God bless to you all.

Millie Pargeter

Mobile Library

The library visits Wichenford on the first Wednesday of the month.

We do not want to lose it, so please use it!

Malvern View

10am-10.30am

Wichenford church

10.35am-11am

Kings Green Farm

11.05am-11.35am

Rosses Green

11.40am-12.10pm

Martley Library

Opening Hours

Martley Memorial Hall
Berrow Green Road
Martley, Worcs WR6 6PQ

Mon 2.00-7.00pm

Wed 4.00-6.00pm

Thu 10.00am-1.00pm

Fri 2.00-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-12 noon



***Bluebell Cross Country Ride
in Wichenford, near Martley
in aid of local charities***

**On Sunday 27 April 2008
Starting at 10.00 am (last entries 1 pm)
From the field next to the church, opposite
Wichenford Dovecote and Court
(for location map, multimap website: WR6 6XY)**

Anyone who would prefer to come on Sat 26 April or the following weekend should please ring or email as below.

**Approx 11 miles pleasure ride through Bluebell woods and fields
with lots of optional jumps of various heights and sizes**

**All riders must have their own insurance and valid horse passports
Riders take part entirely at their own risk: the organizers accept no
liability whatsoever for damage to persons, horses, or property**

No dogs allowed

Rosettes to all taking part

Hard hats and adequate protection must be worn

WCs and First aid on hand. No ambulance.

Vet and doctor on call.

Entries on the day: Adults £15 Children under 14 £10

**Enquiries: gblwichenford@aol.com
07767 788 273**

***Sponsored by
Equestrian and Country Leisure Ltd, Top Barn, Hallow***

Some April Festivals

April Fools' Day

The origins of April Fools' Day, also called All Fools' Day, are uncertain. Some see it as a celebration related to the turn of the seasons, while others believe it stems from the adoption of a new calendar. Ancient cultures, including those as varied as the Romans and the Hindus, celebrated New Year's Day on or around 1 April, which follows the vernal equinox of 20-21 March. In medieval times, much of Europe celebrated the beginning of the new year on 25 March, the Feast of Annunciation.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ordered a new calendar to replace the old (Julian) Calendar. The new calendar called for New Year's Day to be celebrated on 1 January. France adopted the reformed calendar and shifted New Year's day to the new date. It is thought that many people either refused to accept the new date, or did not learn about it, and continued to celebrate New Year's Day on 1 April, so people began to make fun of these traditionalists, sending them on "fool's errands" or trying to trick them into believing something false.



Another explanation of the origins of April Fools' Day was provided by Joseph Boskin, a professor of history at Boston University. He explained that the practice began during the reign of Constantine, when a group of court jesters and fools told the Roman emperor that they could do a better job of running the empire. Constantine, amused, allowed a jester to be king for one day. The jester passed an edict calling for absurdity on that day, and the custom became an annual event. Prof. Boskin explained, "In those times, fools were really wise men. It was the role of jesters to put things in perspective with

humor." This explanation was printed by many newspapers in 1983 and it took a couple of weeks for people to realize that they'd been victims of an April Fools' joke themselves – the explanation had been made up!

Many different cultures have had days of foolishness around the start of April, give or take a couple of weeks. The Romans had a festival named Hilaria on 25 March. The Hindu calendar has Holi, and the Jewish calendar has Purim. Perhaps there's something about the time of year, with its turn from winter to spring, that lends itself to light-hearted celebrations?

Saint George's Day

Saint George is the patron saint of England and 23 April was named as Saint George's day in 1222. He is identified with England and English ideals of honour, bravery and gallantry - but actually he wasn't English at all! Very little, if anything, is known about the real Saint George.

Everything we know about Saint George is dubious, so information about him should be taken as mythical rather than real. It is thought that he was born in Turkey (in Cappadocia) and lived in 3rd century AD, but later lived in Palestine. He became a Roman soldier but protested against Rome's persecution of Christians. His parents were Christian. Imprisoned and tortured, he stayed true to his faith and was beheaded at Lydda in Palestine.

He is patron saint not only of England but also of Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany and Greece; and of Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and Venice (second to Saint Mark). He's also patron saint of soldiers, archers, cavalry and chivalry, farmers and field workers, riders and saddlers, and he helps those suffering from leprosy, plague and syphilis. In recent years he has been adopted as patron saint of Scouts.

Some people have campaigned for Saint Alban to be the patron saint of England instead of George.



Shakespeare's Birthday

The birth date of William Shakespeare, poet and playwright, is not actually documented, though we do know that he was baptised on 26 April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon. 23 April is widely accepted as the date of his birth, probably because according to the Book of Common Prayer, it was required that a child be baptized on the nearest Sunday or holy day following the birth, unless the parents had a legitimate excuse, and scholars have surmised that he was probably born on the previous Sunday, 23 April 1564. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Shakespeare was a respected poet and playwright in his own day, but his reputation did not rise to its present heights until the nineteenth century. The Romantics, in particular, acclaimed Shakespeare's genius, and the Victorians hero-worshipped Shakespeare. In the twentieth century, his work was repeatedly adopted and rediscovered by new movements in scholarship and performance. His plays remain highly popular today and are consistently performed and reinterpreted in diverse cultural and political contexts throughout the world. (Did anyone see the stunning adaptation at Malvern last year of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", using actors from the Indian sub-continent who spoke in their own languages as well as English?)

M Higgins

In the Garden



Controlling pests in the garden

According to the Royal Horticultural Society, slugs and snails were the most troublesome garden pest of 2007. In April, when the weather begins to warm up, they will be out munching the tender new shoots of your plants—so beware! The best way to get rid of them is to pick them off by hand. They are most active at night or after a heavy shower of rain. (You could also try borrowing some ducks, who like to eat slugs, or try training your pet to eat them—only joking, but I sometimes feel that I could solve two problems at once if my cats took to eating slugs!) Other methods include mulching around your plants with sharp grit or eggshells, or you could try potting up susceptible plants and sticking adhesive copper strip around the pot—the theory of this is that the wetness of the slugs or snails reacts with the copper to produce a small electric shock that will deter the beasts. Each slug or snail produces about 500 offspring per season, so start your control procedures soon and keep them up. You should also make sure your garden is kept tidy and free from rotting leaves and other plant debris, where slugs and snails like to hide—this is why the cool, damp undersides of grapefruit or orange

halves can also help you to control the pests—just throw away the fruit skins when the slugs and snails have hidden there. Hedgehogs, frogs and some birds will also help by eating slugs and snails, so encourage them into your garden.

MSH

Continued from page 18

Martley Summer Show and Fete

If we are to continue with the Show we really could do with some new blood on the committee.

We need people who can assist on the day and can attend a few meetings during the year. So if you could spare just a few hours of your year to help out we would appreciate it. No particular skills are required, but if you have any brilliant ideas or can juggle one handed standing on your head so much the better!

If you are interested or would like more information please have a chat with one of us. Eileen Stammers (Chairman) on 888513 or Tony Lewington on 888500.

Do you know anyone who might help?

Tony Lewington

Attention Dog Owners!

Dog poo

Concerned residents of Martley have drawn the attention of the Parish Council to the amount of dog waste in and around the St. Peters Drive area and the fact that people are either not picking it up or are placing it in bins

that are not for dog waste. Martley Parish Council wish respectfully to remind people that dog waste should be disposed of appropriately.

*Sally Williams, Clerk 01299 832949
sally@mamble.org*

Rabbit snares

A warning to dog owners—rabbit snares have been set in the second field behind MARTley Post Office, so be on your guard

Contacting the Editor

During early February there was something of a hiccup with the Martley mail server, which resulted in its being out of action for several days and the loss of some emails.

The Editor would like to apologise to anyone who thought they had sent something to The Villager and now find that they have not. The Editor acknowledges all emails, so if you think your email did not arrive, please try again as the mail server is now back to normal.

Michelle Higgins

LinC – Lunch in Company

Do you live alone? Find cooking for one a chore? Prefer a meal with



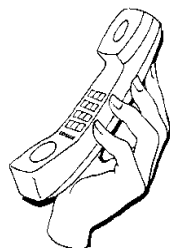
others? From Thursday 1 May there will be the opportunity to enjoy a lunch with others who normally eat on their own. On the first Thursday of each month we will provide a cooked meal with tea or coffee at a cost of £4.00. Just come

along to Broadwas Village Hall about 12.15pm for lunch at 12.30pm. If you would like further information please contact: Revd. Jennifer Whittaker – 01886 833897.

“Phone a Friend?”

Did you know that across the Benefice of Martley, Wichenford and The Lower Teme Valley there is a Lay Pastoral Visiting Team in operation?

It is a wonderful group of people who support David, Bruce and myself as



we seek to minister to all across our three Parishes. Building on friendships and a knowledge of those who live in their village or area, the team are always ready to help with a friendly

chat, a word of comfort or just general information.

They are also very good cooks and cake-makers who provide the refreshments for our various social events! They give willingly of their time, and when unable to help will do their best to find someone who can.

These lovely people are: June and George Lawrence, Helen Sandison and Jane Sherwin (in Martley); Janet Andrews, Sheila Richards and Diana Stone (in Wichenford); Ursula Baker, Sue Ganderton, Maureen Kings, Jay Popplewell and Helen Walker (in the Lower Teme Valley); and Jill Smith, one of our Readers.

*Revd. Jennifer Whittaker.
(Associate Priest)*



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Church Words

1 April, April Fool's Day! As I write this I wonder how many articles in this month's Villager will try to catch us out? Not this one, although I'm sure that some people think that those first disciples who claimed that Jesus had risen from the dead, that he talked with him, and ate and drank with them were mistaken, downright wrong, or just plain foolish. Yet, almost 2000 years later, in 2008, Easter has been celebrated by Christians across the world. Millions of people still rejoice today because of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb; believing that he is alive through their experience of encountering him in their own life. How can this be? The answer of course lies with the first followers of Jesus, his Disciples, who spoke openly and excitedly of his presence with them and of what he means to each one. They shared the 'good news' about Jesus; they continued his ministry of healing and teaching and their number increased, enabling them to go out further into the world to 'make disciples', as Jesus had commanded them. This sharing has continued down

through the ages and is why 'Sharing the Good News' is one of the Diocesan Priorities. Those first Disciples told of what they had seen and heard; they told stories about Jesus, about their experiences of and with him.

Have you a story to tell? A story which is your experience of God in Christ in your life, a moment when you glimpsed that mystery which is God and which filled you with wonder? Share it with a friend, share the 'Good News'! Foolish? No! "For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength". (Paul's letter to the people of Corinth).

Rev. Jennifer Whittaker.
(Associate Priest)



Church Diary for April

Tue 1 April	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 2 April	10.15 Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley 7.30pm, Wardens Meeting at the Rectory
Thu 3 April	State Schools re-open for Summer Term 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Sun 6 April	8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel 9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.00am Worship All-Together, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mon 7 April	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 7.30pm Wichenford PCC ACM in Church
Tue 8 April	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 9 April	10.15am Holy Communion at Heaton House 7.30pm Martley PCC ACM in Church
Thu 10 April	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 2.00pm Little Minnows
Sun 13 April	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.00am Worship All-Together, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.00 am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Prayer & LTV PCC ACM, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Guest Service, St Peter, Martley
Mon 14 April	8.30am Prayer Breakfast at the home of Revd Bruce Thomson
Tue 15 April	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 16 April	10.15 Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Sun 20 April	8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 11.00am Morning Worship, St Peter, Martley 3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel 4.00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
Mon 21 April	10.15 Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
Tues 22 April	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 23 April	10.15am Holy Communion at Heaton House
Thur 24 April	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 2.00pm Mother's Union at the home of Jenny Barton (Noumena)
Sun 27 April	11.00 Benefice Rogation Service at The Noak Farm, Martley 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
Mon 28 April	9.00am, Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tues 29 April	10.00 Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 30 April	10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley

Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Michelle Higgins editor@martley.org or 01886 888344 or leave articles at Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Vacancy. Contact 01886 888393
Church	<i>Rector:</i> Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 or david-win56@aol.com <i>Curate:</i> Revd Bruce Thomson—01886 888098 <i>Assistant Priest:</i> Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Parish Council	Chair: Dave Cropp—01886 888398; Clerk: Sally Williams—01299 832949
Martley WI	President: Gwynne Darby—01886 888490
Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Path-or-Nones	John Nicklin—01886 888318 johnn@martley.org
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
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
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

To have your organisation and its contact details appear 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 ...

Just a few thoughts from that most prolific author “Anon”:

A child is someone who stands halfway between an adult and a TV set..

Kids are usually the reason for everything. The reason everything is out of place and dirty.

The Caesarean Section is a district in Rome.

It’s funny that those things your children did that got on your nerves seem so cute when your grandchildren do them.

Be it ever so humble there’s no place like home—for sending one slowly crackers.

Carrots really do do something for children’s vision—they can always spot them, no matter how you disguise them.

Magic-Spell!

Find the nine-letter word in the grid, then see how many words you can make using the centre letter in all words and each letter only once!

M	E	N
Q	P	T
I	E	U

Answer: EQUIPMENT