

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 13 No. 11

April 2004

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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

Diary

Regular events:

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing

Weds 7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

Telephone Service Mon & Tue 10am—3pm

Thu 10am— 7.30pm 01584 810860

Great Witley & Knightwick Surgeries Weds

10am -4pm - by appt. Tel. 01584 810860

Short mat Bowling Tuesdays 2.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Weight Watchers Tue 6.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Enquiries Tracey Hopkins 07710 493 617

For Church services, please see Church Words

- Fri 2 **Martley Spurs Bingo** 7.30pm
Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Mon 5 **Martley Parish Council Meeting**
8pm Memorial Hall
Wichenford Fete meeting 8pm
Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Sun 11 **Easter Sunday**
Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Open Garden at 1 Prickley Bungalows, Hockhams Lane, Martley 2-6pm in aid of The National Gardens Scheme
- Mon 12 **Easter Monday**
Open Garden as Easter Day
- Wed 14 **Martley WI: President's Surprise Evening** 7.30pm
Martley Memorial Hall
- Thu 15 **Meeting of The Wine Club** 8pm
Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Fri 16 **Partner Whist Drive** at Wichenford Memorial Hall, 8pm.
- Mon 19 **School term starts** .Staff Professional Development Day (school closed to pupils)
- Tues 20 **Wichenford Ladies Fellowship,** 2.30pm at Keepers Cottage, Ockeridge.
- Thu 29 **Martley & District Horticultural Society:** Brian Draper MBE on "The Natural History of Scotland". This is an open meeting starting at 7.30pm. Martley Memorial Village Hall

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



Martley Parish Council

An ordinary meeting of the Martley Parish Council was held on Monday 2 February 2004 at the Memorial Hall: Mr. D. Cropp, Chairman.

Matters Arising

Budget. The proposed budget was passed unanimously. **Local Plan:** This was presented to the councillors for comment at the next meeting on Sunday 22 Feb. The meeting to be in the Memorial Hall between 11am and 5pm. and open to all parishioners. **Development in Martley:** The Clerk read out correspondence from Hallmarks Solicitors and Marsten Developments referring to development in and around the centre of Martley. A meeting has been arranged between the developers and the Parish Council on Monday 23 February 2004. This meeting will not be a Parish Council meeting no decisions will be taken; its purpose will be only to receive information. It is intended to call an open meeting for the parishioners when firm proposals are presented. **Parish Link:** Martley is to become the controlling Council for the finance; this will put some

additional work on the Clerk. **Separation of costs at Memorial Hall ref. Library/Cyber Café** (electricity and other costs): The Clerk outlined how the electricity and telephone costs can be separated. Mr N. Stammers proposed the off-peak electricity charges and special telephone circuits for the library and cyber café be met by the Parish Council. **Village Of The Year Award grants** (local suggestions). Mr Bradley proposed that the grant to split between The Millennium Field, the Memorial Hall and the Playing Field. The Chairman said The Post Office wanted their allocation to go to a youth football team; The Central Stores would like a seat to be installed near The Weighbridge and Mr. Pearsall would like to see his allocation go towards starting The Youth Council. **Barbers Lane parking:** Mr. D. Darling had agreed to the proposed notice. It will be positioned as soon as possible. The speeding issues in Willow Lane to be reviewed with Mr. A. Davies.

Parish Matters

The Chairman circulated a leaflet for the Youth Council. Mr. King asked

when the pictures would be re-hung in the Library. Mr. I. Penell said that the oldest know map of Martley had been found and a digitised copy was available for £50.00. Mr M. Nott proposed that the PC provide a grant of £50.00.

County Councillor's Report

No report.

District Councillor's Report

Mrs. B. Williams reminded the meeting that a District-Wide Youth Council already exists and representatives from The Chantry are members. Mrs. Williams and several Councillors met a reporter from The Daily Telegraph in Martley. Affordable housing: we should be mindful that it is be for local people. Discretionary Rural Rate Relief: Mrs. Williams thought that several organisations should be eligible such as Martley School Playgroup and some small businesses. Heaton House refurbishment is continuing; the second lot of bungalows have been started.

Parish Footpath Officer's Report

No report.

Planning

Received: Mardon, Martley; Old House Ankerdine; High House Ankerdine: Approved/Rejected/Withdrawn: 9 Mortlake Drive canopy, Granted; Millennium Green notice board, Granted; The Wain House Flue, Granted; Lime Cottage Hipplecote, Withdrawn.

Finance

There were 10 cheques totalling

£1100.53 for agreement and signature.

Correspondence

25 items of correspondence were considered.

Councillors Reports and Future Agenda Items

Mrs. D. Goodyear mentioned flooding in Pudford Lane.; the Lengthman to attend. Mr. G. Taylor said that Kingswood Lane is still in poor condition; the Clerk to write to Highways. Mr. Cropp showed the "Marbles" (local development) pamphlet. It will be circulated with local newspapers. Hope House Lane speeding: future agenda item.

The next meeting is on Monday 1 March 2004. 8.00 pm

Tom Pearsall

Clerk to the Council 01886 888???

St Peter's Church

Easter Lilies

Easter Sunday is 11 April and traditionally Arum Lilies are placed upon the altar. These special flowers are quite expensive and therefore anyone wishing to make a donation in memory of a loved-one is asked to contact Jenny Underhill on 01886-888306.

Library/Cyber café comes to Martley

Yes, it's here, it's open, and it's ours! By the time you read this issue of The Villager, the opening ceremony will have taken place in the purpose-built

conversion at Martley Village Memorial Hall. You can browse, take out books, or call up any book from the Worcester County Library Service. Drop in for a coffee or chat, get on line, or learn to get on line. Martley (along with Welland) is the first site for this new venture in the county. Come along and have a look!

Dave Cropp

Royal British Legion

“The Bridge over the River Kwai” was a powerful documentary presented by Fred Seiker and served to show how little we all knew of the truth about the horrors and brutality suffered by British and allied forces taken prisoner by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II - a far cry from the film starring Alec Guinness! Fred Seiker’s talk after the film gave an insight to the ‘wheeling and dealing’ following the surrender of the Japanese and this is included in Fred’s book, “Lest we forget”, a small but important book of drawings, memories and facts of the politics at the cessation of hostilities.

Thanks to Kay Bamford-Burnell for providing superb video equipment and operating skills and to those who attended, gave raffle prizes, bought raffle tickets and helped in any way. Fred asked for a donation to his charity - the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Burton upon Trent. This has recently been taken over by the Royal British Legion and there are no admission charges. This

branch is hoping to organise a coach trip there later in the year.

The February meeting was well-attended. Maureen Kings reported that the members who had recently undergone heart surgery were doing well. Provisional date for your diary, Saturday 5 June 2004, 60th Anniversary of D Day 6 June 1944. The branch hopes to arrange an evening’s entertainment to remember this very important date.

Joyce Tyler, Hon Secretary

01886-821551



Martley WI

14 April at 7.30pm

There is a slight change to the meeting this month but don’t stay away, as President Pat Crook and her committee are arranging something equally, if not more, interesting. Competition is for a pressed flower arrangement. The quiz team enjoyed the visit to Alfrick for the Federation Quiz and the result was a creditable joint fifth. It was a fun evening and it is always nice to meet up with other Institutes. Preparations for the Spring

Rally are going ahead. Can we repeat our successes of previous years? Of course we can!

Kate King



Local Ultra Sound Scanner Appeal

A donation of £1,000 has been made in memory of Paula Collins (nee Soley) to the Scanner Appeal. Paula passed away five years ago and her family and many friends at the time held a social evening at the Mason's Arms in her memory. It is the wish of her mother, Mrs Eileen Soley and her late father Gordon, that the money should be donated to the Scanner Appeal to help many other people in the early detection of health problems. Paula was a lovely girl, who had such a short life. She is missed very much. God bless her.

Martley & District Horticultural Society

On a very cold evening, members were welcomed to the February meeting by the chairman, Barbara Kirby. She introduced Garth Lowe, who gave a most interesting talk illustrated with slides on "The wild life and wild flowers of Bulgaria", a country Garth has visited on two occasions. This had enabled him to see a vast area of the rugged landscape and way of life that has almost stood still with the passing of time.

The wild flowers and most unusual birds that can be found in this part of the world were of special interest, as were the monasteries set in some of the most remote parts of the country. Water buffalo are one of the main

animals kept around the villages, as they provide milk and the equivalent of our dairy products. He was thanked by Ray Ellis.

At the meeting on Thursday 29 April the speaker will be Brian Draper MBE his subject will be "The Natural History of Scotland". This is an open meeting starting at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. There will be a small charge for non-members.

Nellie Bradley

Walking not Working

Members of the footpath maintenance group, the Path-or-Nones, had an innovative idea in February. They called it "Walking not Working", which sounds like a play on the title of a poem by writer Sylvia Plath, currently topical because of a controversial film about her life. However, literary allusions apart, the idea was that walkers would navigate the footpaths of Martley, reporting back to the Path-or-Nones any maintenance work that needed doing, such as broken stiles or overgrown pathways, thus saving Footpath Officer John Nicklin from having to do all the surveying himself. So some would walk, and others follow up with the heavy work of maintenance.

Four pioneers set off in the drizzle ("It never rains on Path-or-None's days", said John) and walked Martley Walk number 4 towards the former Mason's Arms pub, across to Willow Green Road, over the fields towards Lingen

Farm and back down Hollins Lane. I was one of them. Apart from getting a bit damp, we had a good time and recorded on both paper and digital camera some “faults” for the future attention of John’s hard-working maintenance volunteers. The strangest was a stile with a broken top rail – we thought a horse must have sat on it – the hoof-marks leading up to the stile only to disappear on the road the other side were something of a give-away. (Post Scriptum: the stile was mended by A. Nonymous before the day was out – “All’s well that ends well”.)

If you are interested in seeing parts of Martley you probably haven’t visited before or like your walks to have a purpose, why not join a Path-or-None’s walkers group on the third Sunday in the month? You can read more about our footpath volunteers, mapped walks around Martley and see some wonderful photographs of the Martley area on the Path-or-None’s website, which is linked from www.martley.org.uk.

Michelle Higgins

Pudford Lane

A rather belated, but no less sincere, welcome to Wendy and Darren Bramhall who have moved into Homeground on the corner of the Lane and Hillside. We hope you will have many happy years in Martley.

The lambs are appearing now and the floods and glacier are diminishing. Spring must be on the way. We are

always very thankful for the work put in by Tom in keeping the ditches clear. It is understood that the various poultry enterprises continue to do well, and eggs of various colours, shapes and sizes are being produced. We understand the Chantry High School fundraising has been helped by the persuasive visits of our Local Armtwister. Who could say “No” to her when such a good cause is the reason for a home visit?

Due to tree felling and coppicing a large quantity of pea-sticks has been distributed to various villagers, but that was only a temporary hazard. It is now safe to travel up the lane without being pressed to fill the boot or back seat with branches of hazel or poplar.

Kate King

Caring for Wildlife

A Reader’s View

This is the first time in over thirty years since we moved into this house that there have hardly been any birds in my garden. I have bought seed and nuts from the RSPB for some years and after filling the feeders in the autumn, I have not had to refill them. Apart from blackbirds, thrush and fieldfares (they have gone now), the odd sparrow and tit, that’s about it. Could someone tell me why?

About May last year, I was fortunate to have as a gift, an electric scooter. This enabled me to get about the flat parts of the village and for the first time I was able to take advantage of

the Millennium Field. I really enjoyed this, as the wild life was brilliant, rabbits, birds, buzzards, herons, pheasants and so on. Then it happened: someone sprayed the thistles, in their wisdom thinking it would make the field look pretty. I don't know if they gave a thought to the animals, putting a notice on posts is no good to them, or children and even some adults, who never read notices. I did notice a drop in wildlife activity after this was done. As this is just a field for enjoyment and not arable land, could we not class it as a 'Set Aside' and keep it organic? If the thistles or weeds get a little too much, could they not be kept mown, as the footpaths are - there are no weeds or thistles on them. After all, we do not have to mow them all. I think we need some "weeds" and thistles left for the wildlife, and it would be far more pleasant than the smell of spray. There is enough of that on the farmers' fields.

Peter H Downes

We Need Your Help!

On Saturday 15 May our daughter, Helen Coombey-Jones of Prickley Green, will be taking part in the Playtex 'Moonwalk' in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer and the Bristol Cancer Help Centre for cancer care.

The Moonwalk is either a half- or full-marathon power walk which began six years ago. It is now held in Central

London each year and this year 15,000 women (and a few brave men) will be 'Walking the Walk', through the night, wearing decorated bras to raise money for these two charities.

Helen, who has rheumatoid and osteo arthritis, completed the half-marathon 'Moonwalk' in 2002 and raised almost £700.00 but this year has committed herself to the full 'Moonwalk' which is a staggering 26 miles (or the equivalent of walking from Worcester to Leominster). She is currently training for the event every Sunday morning and can be seen walking around Worcestershire with a group of colleagues who are also taking part. So, if you happen to see them, please give them a toot and a wave for encouragement!

We are, therefore, asking for your help and sponsorship as Helen would like to raise as much money as possible for these charities and beat the amount she raised in 2002. If you are interested in sponsoring Helen, please contact us on 01886 888513. Thank you

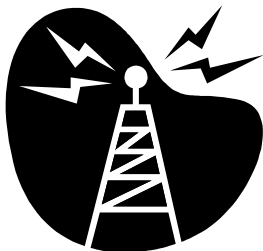
*Eileen and Neil Stammers
Tall Trees, Prickley Green*

Broadband Meeting Report

Over 40 people attended a presentation by Redmond Peel and Charles Westlake-Wood of Serv-IT Air-Band in Martley on 13 February. Serv-IT, based in Blackpole, Worcester, runs Air-Band and commenced operations five years ago, Bromyard being their latest project. Their presentation was

informative and comprehensive.

The timescale of events leading up to the installation and activation of the service was given, with an explanation of the equipment itself. Wireless broadband is an 'always on' service which does not rely, as with BT, upon telephone lines. It is a two-way (duplex) system where both transmission and reception are via radio links. With any 'always on' facility, the danger of infection by viruses is much greater than 'dial-up' and both an antivirus program and a firewall, preferably hardware-based, should always be installed and maintained. Where wireless broadband scores over telephone broadband is in its ability to provide a wide range of up- and download speeds catering for different markets. They range from 128Kbps up to 10Mbps, from domestic up to very high-speed data business use. The main drawback is that, according to Air-band, the service is normally available only to about 70% of households within the 'footprint' of the main antenna. Screening by other buildings, dense woodland, rising ground and similar factors restricting the establishment of good solid radio links to the remaining 30%.



Everyone ordering Air-Band will be given a site survey and qualitative assessment

first, as a permanent installation will be made only where the signal is of sufficient strength to provide a reliable long-term service. Customers in fringe areas will be informed of any possible downsides during the site survey before any installation work is commenced. A survey cannot be carried out, with any degree of certainty, until the service is operational, which in the case of Martley should be early to mid-April 2004.

Equipment prices range from £150 inclusive of VAT (for residential) to £450 plus VAT (for business, with possible government funding) speeds range from 256/128Kbps to 512/128Kbps (Down/Up) residential up to 1024/1024Kbps for business use. Subscription charges range from £20 per month upwards, dependant upon speed. Further pricing details, specific to Martley, will be found on www.martley.org.uk/broadband/specifications.htm.

General information can be found on www.air-band.co.uk

Contact Charles Westlake-Wood on 07970 075 483 or Redmond Peel of Serv-IT on 01905 458 488 to order. Printed brochures and price lists will also be available in Martley Post Office shortly. Serv-IT Ltd, BD Business Centre, Blackpole Road, Worcester WR3 8SQ Tel: 01905 458 499 Fax: 01905 458 317 E mail: servit@servit.ltd.uk Web: www.servit.ltd.uk

John Layton

Government's Electoral Commission Goes for Martley Plan

Last year Martley Parish Council submitted recommendations to the Boundary Committee for England. Basically, we wanted to keep our close links with Wichenford, Hallow and Broadheath, but submissions by Worcester County Council would have joined us instead with Alfrick and Leigh and Malvern Link. The Review was of the whole of the County of Worcester. There were only 17 submissions during Stage 1, of which nine were from Parish and Town Councils, and of which only two were from Malvern Hills District. We made a major case that our orientation is towards the parishes to the north and east of us.

In their Stage 2 Summary, just published, the Boundary Committee says: "In the north of the district we propose adopting Martley Parish Council's proposals for the two coterminus divisions of Tenbury and Hallow. We consider these proposals provide for good levels of electoral equality, maintain a better reflection of the community identity than the County Council's scheme in this area and contribute to a better level of coterminosity across the county" ("*coterminosity*" means that the boundaries of parishes, district council wards, and county divisions match each other).

In the final summary the Committee

says "In Malvern Hills district we propose adopting the County Council's proposals for four single-member divisions across the south of the district. We also propose adopting Martley Parish Council's proposals for two single-member divisions in the north of the district and its proposed Malvern Link division in the centre"

Dave Cropp

Once Upon a Time

Once upon a time Martley Village Memorial Hall had a full committee. Now we need some new people to take the Hall forward, and most of all we need, as soon as possible, a Secretary! and urgently. Could you spare about one hour a month, plus half an hour typing up our committee meeting minutes? If you could, please ring 888398 as soon as you can.

Would You Believe It?

Martley Bellringers have discovered that there is actually a "Martley Tune". It's a bellringing method called 'Martley Treble Bob Minor', and involves all six bells changing places. The first (and only time) a Quarter Peal was rung in this method was in 1973. As far as we can discover, it has not been rung since - so something else we have to learn this year.

On a different note, The Annual Treasure Hunt to find the Tower Captain will take place in May this year.....?!?

Dave Cropp

Trefoil Guild Report

Our February meeting was held in C.O.T at the home of Chris Fletcher, we had an evening of poetry and prose which was most entertaining. Our members were responsible for leading the service at The Thinking Day celebrations on 21 February in Droitwich. Everyone agreed it had been a great success and Jenny Barton was thanked for her inspiration and planning of the service. We planned how to celebrate our 50th birthday. Mrs. John Walker founded the first Knightwick and District Trefoil Guild in April 1954 and we hope to have a party inviting neighbouring Guilds.

Geraldine Cooper.

Martley Spurs

February turned out to be a good month for the Spurs: the 8th saw the Sunday Premier side draw 2-all in an away-game with Kempsey; The Reserves, however, lost to All Blacks. Valentine's Day saw the Saturday Premier eleven in great form when they thrashed Bretforton OB 6-1. Mike Fellows and Steve Prickett both netted a brace and Wayne Baldwin hit the back of the net for the first time in five years. The next day turned up another amazing win with our lads netting nine to Barbourne's four. Richard Taylor and Steve Prickett both got hat tricks, the other three went to Chris Collins, Richard Tipping and Adam Baldwin who got one apiece. The Sunday

Premier side followed with another goals-galore win on the 22nd when they beat Arrow 2000 by nine goals to three. Steve Prickett showed his worth again by netting four times while Chris Collins notched up three. Unfortunately the day before this great win the Spurs got knocked out of the Martley Cup by Langland Sport. Our boys were actually level at half time after Chris Gwin's equalizer and were still level after a goalless second half. Extra time was dominated by the visitors who won by six goals to the Spur's three. Neither Premier side had a fixture over the final weekend of the month. As of 14 February, all our sides were well down on the league tables but valuable points have since been added.

Martley Spurs Bingo

Fri 2 April Wichenford Memorial Hall
7.30pm

Beth Williams

Martley Residents Honoured

Belated congratulations to John Bateman and Valerie Weddell-Hall on their awards in the latest Honours Lists. We wish them and their families a lovely day at the Palace.

One Man and His Dog

Photographer Andy Nickless, of Kings Green Farm, Wichenford, has been focusing in a different direction recently. Andy and his six-year-old dog, Glen, became Moreton Morrell Sheep Dog Trials Society Novice

Champions, at the end of season Championship event held at Drayton Parslow, Bucks on Sunday 29 February. Andy and Glen had a couple of local wins last year, at Stoke Bliss and Malvern, and many placings but this is their first Championship success



On Yer Bike!

Easter Monday 12 April - Red Marley Hill Climb. Classic Motorcycles etc. at Walsgrave Farm, Great Witley. Practice Starts 10 AM Racing Starts 12 noon. Admission £5 Children Under 14 Free.

Neil Stammers

Post Office News

Did you know? You can now buy your car tax disk at Martley Post Office. The Post Office is also acting as a collection point for Tesco vouchers for Computers for Schools and will pass them on to our two local schools at the end of the campaign.

A Scottish Evening in Martley with Brian Draper

Martley & District Horticultural Society is hosting an evening with Brian Draper at Martley Village Hall on Thursday 29 April at 8.00.p.m. "A Naturalists View of Scotland" - the natural history and scenery to be found in the many varied habitats in this remote part of Britain.

Many villagers will have enjoyed previous presentations by Brian on topics related to the Natural History of our area and this will again be a special evening for all nature lovers.

Admission £3 to include refreshments.

Further details from Judith O'Leary on 888253



Recycling

Don't forget that you can now split your rubbish into different sorts for kerbside collection:

CLEAR SACKS = Plastic and cans

PURPLE SACKS = Paper and textiles (cloth)

Sacks will be collected on alternate weeks.

You can still use black bags for other rubbish and they are collected every week, as before.





Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

A Tribute to Dora May Williams

We were sorry to hear that Dora had passed away on 3 February 2004. She had moved from Kidderminster into Wichenford village 17 years previously. For many years Dora was a familiar figure seen walking her dog, Blossom, each day. She worked hard in her garden and when shopping seldom came home without another plant or two. Also often one could hear her tapping away doing her own little bit of DIY. Dora was a member of Wichenford Ladies Fellowship, Women's Institute, Wichenford Ladies Circle and, until recent years, enjoyed meetings of the Welsh Society in Worcester.

For 15 years she was a voluntary worker at the Nora Parsons Day Centre. She loved her holidays, particularly in Cornwall, and enjoyed several holidays abroad with her friend Elsie Whitehead. Dora never complained about her health, life or loneliness, and said that moving to Wichenford was the best move she ever made. Widowed many years ago, Dora was devoted to her children,



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Phone your Wichenford news to Janet or Sheila or leave articles at Martley Post Office or 1 Oxford View Wichenford

grandchildren and great-grandchildren and made many friends. Her ashes will lie in Worcester.

Nora Parsons Day Centre

The Day Centre held a most successful Christmas Bazaar raising £500 for funds. The organisers thank everyone who helped with this event and are most grateful to all who gave so generously, and those who came and supported the bazaar.

Vivienne Grosvenor Hulme

We are all deeply sorry to hear of the tragic death of Vivienne and extend our heartfelt sympathy to Andrew and to all her family. Vivienne was the daughter of Wilfred and Drusilla Grosvenor and was born in Wichenford, where she attended the village school and later was educated at Martley Chantry High School.

Vivienne was a member of the Chantry School Orchestra and travelled abroad several times with them. She was a gifted artist and gained a first class honours degree in Art and Design at the Worcester University College. For some years she worked as an artist at the Worcester Porcelain Factory, but lately had carried out her painting and embroidery at home in Evesham. Vivienne was a great animal lover and often returned to Wichenford to exercise her dogs along the walks that she loved. She will be so sadly missed and remember with affection.

Edward Balinger Ledbury

Edward Balinger Ledbury, always known as Ted, moved to Wichenford when he was two years old and remained in the village for the rest of his life. He attended Wichenford School and later moved on to Martley School. He trained as a car mechanic and for many years was a valued employee of Worcester Car Sales. He married Barbara and they made their home in the village. They had two children, Alison and Simon, and now have three grandchildren, Emma, Justin and Luke, who spent a lot of time with Ted, and of whom he was extremely proud.

Ted, who had a great sense of humour, was always helpful with advice and assistance for people with motorcar problems. He was fond of all wildlife and would always feed his garden

birds. Many friends attended his funeral and Emma and Justin read delightful tributes that they had written themselves. Ted will be sadly missed and remembered with respect and affection.

Welcome

Welcome to Mr & Mrs Peter Griffin who have recently moved to Ridgend Cottage, Wichenford.

Wichenford Fete

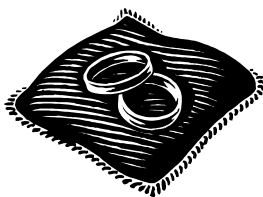
The Fete will be held on Saturday 24 July 2004. We need your help and ideas, so please come to a meeting on Monday 5 April at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. All welcome.

Wichenford Whist Drives

There is a change of date for April. Please note that the April Whist Drive will be held on Friday 16 April, partner as usual, and not Friday 9 April as published.

Golden Wedding

Our heartiest congratulations to Gerald and Margaret Barber who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.



Ladies Fellowship

At our February meeting at the home of Mrs Pam Webb, members remembered in their prayers Mrs Dora Williams, whose funeral we had attended at Wichenford Church the previous week. Dora was a valued member of the Ladies Fellowship and will be greatly missed. Mrs Jo Root led the prayers and Mrs Pam Webb provided refreshments. Birthday wishes for February went to Mrs Gwen Burnett and Mrs Molly Wall. Programme cards were given to members and we plan a busy and interesting year. Mrs Millie Pargeter had liaised with members of a Broadwas Group, who would welcome us to join them. After discussion it was felt that perhaps we could exchange a meeting during the year, but keep our own group identity.

The Mamble and Bayton Church Women's Fellowship are hosting a gathering of the Association on 19 May and members will attend this meeting. It was agreed to make this our May meeting venue, and visit Webb's Garden Centre in June. In April we join Mrs Molly Wall at Keepers Cottage, Ockeridge.

Cycling Enthusiasts

Anyone interested in forming a small group for fun rides during the warmer months? Contact Vicki on 01886-888382.

Wichenford 100 Club Draw

The winner of £112 last month was Pauline Painter with ticket number 159.

Millennium Green Inspection & Tidying Rota

April. Vicki Howell.

Wichenford Church News

Church Flowers

4 April Palm Sunday – no Service
11 April Easter decorations
15 April Easter decorations
22 April Mrs A. Banks

Thank you, ladies, who week by week remember their turn for arranging the Church flowers, they always look so lovely and we are indeed very grateful to you all.

Our sincere thanks also go to the brass-cleaning members. Some of you do both flowers and brasses. A visitor to our Church, who had lived here as a child, stood quite amazed to see what good order it was in and how beautifully it was kept.

*Pam Webb and Carma Weatherall,
Churchwardens*

Special Services in Holy Week in Wichenford

Tuesday 6 April, 9pm – Compline
Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion at 7.30pm with the Ferndale Singers
Sunday 18 April – Evensong goes forward to 6.30pm

Burials at Wichenford

Mr Ted Ledbury of Queens Estate, a long-time resident.

Vivienne Grosvenor, who many knew as a child in our Parish.

Dora May Williams, Malvern View, who lived here many years.

All sadly missed. May they rest in peace.

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

An Ordinary Meeting of the parish council held on Monday 16^{February} 2004 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall Wichenford. The chairman welcomed our new councillor Nigel Oldfield and introduced him to the parish councillors. The meeting started with an update from our beat officer PC Naulls. He will attend the Annual Meeting of the Council on 10 May 10 and give a yearly report.

Report

County Councillor B Hickling reported to the Parish Council that 23 parishes in the Malvern Hills area have applied to join the Lengthsman Scheme. Insurance is the major worry. There will be a meeting for parish clerks at County Hall on 2 March to discuss issues raised. Ragwort is poisonous to animals. It will be regulated on Malvern Hills and commons in accordance with a new Act of Parliament, which will be enforced from 20 February 2004. Social Services are to work with Education Services in future to ensure good delivery for Special Needs.

County Council Cabinet have improved a council tax levy of 5.1%. Workwise is a scheme designed for people living or working in rural areas. Where transport does not meet needs, users may loan a 50cc moped up to six months with insurance cover. A small contribution will be requested for wear and tear. Skills on Show, The County Arts Event, will take place at County Hall on 10/11 July 2004. District Councillor B Williams explained that the council tax rates, with a possible 5% increase, are to be discussed. The police and fire fighters have increased the sum they require. Holt Bridge will be closed from 1-21 March for three weeks. All the services have been informed.

Matters Arising

Nora Parsons Day Centre. Councillor Stinton reported that the day centre is fully insured by the Day Centre Committee. Refuse Lorries. The District Councillor has yet to speak to Ivor Pumfrey regarding this problem and it was suggested that the clerk write to him again.

Planning

Demolish existing farmhouse and construct replacement dwelling and garage at Allsett Farm is going to the planning inspectorate for appeal. Bungalow and associated parking/turning area at land adjacent to Meadow View. This application is going to the planning inspectorate for appeal. The Parish Council decided that they do not want to add anything further to their comments of 10

October 2003.

Applications received for comment. Since the last meeting the parish council has discussed the following applications: relocation of farm buildings at Rimmers Farm - the parish council fully endorse this application providing that slurry and foul water run-off do not affect the brook. Demolish existing farmhouse and construct replacement dwelling and garage at Allsetts Farm - although the parish council appreciate that the roof height is lower it will still dominate the local landscape, and their previous comments remain. Amendments to existing approvals to garage design and provisions of a new link to each barn to replace glazed link approval. The parish council wrote to the planning department as they had several reservations regarding this application. Alterations to approved scheme to form accommodation in roof space at 2 Rimmers Barn - the parish council had no objections to this proposal. Single storey extension at the Tallett, Cockshoot Farm - the Parish Council had no objection to this proposal.

Finance

A quotation of £125.00 + VAT from Midland Tree Care for work to the trees on the Village Green was felt to be extremely reasonable. Risk Assessment - the annual risk assessment will be done by Councillor Britten-Long, Councillor Randall and the clerk and discussed at the meeting on 29 March 2004.

Highways

Councillor Randall gave a brief summary of the proposed upgrading of Footpaths 7 and 32. The council last discussed this in December 2000 and Mr Lambe of the County Council decided to keep it as a footpath. Over the last five years, lots of evidence has come to light that it has been used for decades as a bridlepath, so consequently many people want it upgraded. Parish Lengthsman Scheme - a letter from Worcestershire County Council was received on 4 February advising the Parish Council that their bid for funding has been successful. The clerk and Councillor Randall will be attending a meeting at County Hall on March 2nd to discuss how the scheme will operate. Slower Speeds Initiative - there will be a Rural Speed Management Seminar in Birmingham on 25 March 2004.

Councillors' Reports.

Councillor Rendall gave an update on Guises Lane and Rosses lane. DEFRA has produced a consultation document on the Use of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles on Rights of Way. Councillor Rendall has read this in full and will respond on behalf of the Parish Council by 19 March. Laugherne Valley Travel - Councillor Panton reported that Laugherne Valley travel has got funding for the next two years. Severn Trent has subsidised two weeks due to the road closure at Bell Lane. The bus stop will now be in Crowngate.

If anyone has the property marking

kits we would be very grateful if you could please return them to your Neighbour Hood Watch Co-ordinator, or Mr Panton; at Ridgeway, Venn Lane Wichenford.

Date and Venue of Next Meetings: 29 March 2004; 10 May 2004 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. All in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Shirley Sanders Clerk to the Council
(01886 888302)

NOTE

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council have been successful in applying for a grant to cover the cost of providing a Parish Lengthsman. The Lengthsman will clear gully grates; dig out blocked gullies; clear headwalls; rod blocked drains; advise landowners when their ditches need cleaning; clean dirty signs; clear vegetation obstructing signs and other work with approval of the parish council and the Highways Partnership Manager. The position is remunerated at an hourly rate and the successful person will work in conjunction with the Parish Council and the Highways Partnership Manager at Malvern Hills. Anyone interested in applying for the position is invited to write to the parish clerk.



A Traditional Poem

*The horse and mule live thirty years,
And nothing know of Wine and Beers.*

*The goat and sheep at twenty die,
And never taste of Scotch or Rye.*

*The cow drinks water by the ton,
And at eighteen is mostly done.*

*The dog at fifteen, cashes in,
Without the aid of Rum or Gin.*

*The cat in milk and water soaks.
And then in twelve short years it
croaks.*

*The modest, sober, bone-dry hen,
Lays eggs for nog and dies at ten.*

*All animals are strictly dry,
They sinless live and swiftly die.*

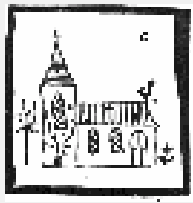
*But sinful, Gin full, Rum soaked Men,
Survive for three score years and ten,*

*And some of us, the mighty few,
Stay plastered 'til we're
eighty two.*



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Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

new worldview as we see it with him by our side. May the Risen Christ be with you. God Bless

David

Easter for a Christian is immeasurably significant, celebrating the fact that Jesus, having been crucified and laid in a tomb, is RISEN from the dead! Easter is also Chocolate Eggs, bulbs and plants shooting forth. Lambs fill the fields and hills, and it's holiday season. It's a time of new life! Easter this year is very special for my family as we celebrate the marriage of our daughter, Rachel, with Chris. It will be a new life for all of us! Easter, weddings and all that Jesus has done, reminds me that Jesus refers to his Church as a Bride! We are told in the Letter to the Ephesians that Christ gave himself up for his Bride, the Church, giving his own life in order to present her to himself a radiant Church, without stain, wrinkle or blemish. And so it is that husbands should love their wives, the reading goes on to say, encouraging the love that Christ has for his church to be reflected in a marriage. The passage mentions wives submitting to their husbands and I see this as a mutual submission, one to the other, the Bride and Groom together in love. Just as Christ is committed to his Bride, the church, so should we, the Church, submit to him! So too can we in partnership with Christ, discover a

4 April	Palm Sunday
Benefice Services	11am Open Air Service at Laylocks Garden Centre
	6.30pm Holy Communion, Martley
11 April	Easter Sunday
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	9.30am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	8am Holy Communion
18 April	
Wichenford	6.30pm Evensong
Martley	8am Holy Communion; 11am Morning Worship
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Cotheridge	9am Matins
Knightwick	3pm Evening Worship
25 April	
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
Broadwas	8am Holy Communion; 11am Family Worship

From our Foreign Correspondent (Part 1)

March 2004. Hi all, I am in Kitgum in Northern Uganda and it is very hot, in the low 90's all day and not much cooler at night, unlike Martley with the early Spring sunshine. The journey here was delayed by 12 hours, which meant I was on the move from Sunday 10am until arrival on Tuesday at 1am, due mainly to missed and rescheduled flights. The last part of this journey I accomplished sitting in a small, six-passenger, twin-engine plane through a double thunderstorm with lightening on all sides. Quite a spectacular, though slightly scary, sight.

Everyone here in Kitgum is on tenterhooks and quite nervous. Daily security reports from the displaced persons camps (still housing some 100,000 people) around Kitgum speak of small-scale raids on the camps, surrounding villages and main roads, by the insidious rebels killing people while looking for food. Cattle-stealing is reported every day from one location or another. There is a definite security risk as the Lords Resistance Army, led by Joseph Kony for almost two decades, are being driven in from Southern Sudan by the SPLA (Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army) and Sudan government forces. Accommodation in my 'hotel' is minimal and the food is no better, so I should be quite slim by the time I get back! Last Sunday they ran out of food altogether and closed the

In the Kitchen



Chocolate crunch slices

These are very easy to make—maybe the children could try?

175g digestive biscuits
225g icing sugar plus extra for dusting
50g cocoa powder
50g butter
50g firm vegetable fat
2 table spoons (30g) strong coffee
1 teaspoon Vanilla essence

Line a 18cm square tin with non-stick paper. Break the biscuits into small pieces, but do not crush, in a mixing bowl. Sift together the cocoa powder and icing sugar. Melt the butter and fat over gentle heat. Stir in the coffee, vanilla, icing sugar and coffee. Pour this mixture over the broken biscuits and mix carefully together. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin and spread level with a spatula. Leave in a cool place (not the fridge) until firm. Remove from the tin and dust with icing sugar. Cut into fingers with a sharp knife (adults only!). Enjoy!

'eating area' completely which means I am getting only one small meal a day now, at breakfast. I will have to open up my emergency rations if this continues for much longer.

John Layton

In the Garden



Garden Tips for April

April – the daytime temperatures begin to improve after the normal March winds. The night temperature can drop considerably and frost can damage tender plants. Any plants that are planted out must be properly hardened-off, or can be covered with fleece. The fleece covering enables earlier crops to be grown. Peas, carrots, parsnips and lettuce grow well under fleece, as this also helps to keep the plants free of insects. Beware of slugs, as they too appreciate some protection to devour the plants in comfort.



Plant lavender and rosemary and other herbs that can be sown from seeds. These include marjoram, thyme, fennel, dill and rue. Continue planting potatoes, onion sets and broad beans. Sow seed of late Summer cauliflower, Autumn cabbage, beetroot and salad onions. Sow kidney beans in containers to produce plants ready for planting out next month.

The grass on the lawn will be growing

well. This will need a dressing of “weed and feed”, towards the end of the month. Dead-head and tidy up all Spring-flowering plants. Shear off the old flowers and foliage of heathers in order to keep the shape of the plants.

Question sometimes asked, “Are kidney beans climbing beans *and* stick beans?” Yes.

Jack Bradley

Answers to March Crossword

ACROSS:

4.CHURCH 5.DEUS 7.PSALTER
10.DEIFY 11.DREADED 12.POKER
14.GUTTERS 15.CHARM 16.APPROVE
20.GRAPH 21.EVENING 22.LAIC
23.GROUND

DOWN:

1.GUILD 2.SCRÉE 3.REREDOS 4.CASE
6.SUFFER 8.TRIUMPH 9.RAPTURE
10.DEPRIVE 13.CHORAL 14.GRAPHIC
17.OVERT

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