

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 14 No. 11

April 2005

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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

September 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 *Great Witley & Knightwick*

Surgeries: Weds 10am -4pm - by appt.

01584 810860

Short mat Bowling Tuesdays 2.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Weight Watchers Tue 6.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Enquiries Tracey Hopkins

07710 493617

See Church Words for details of services

- Fri 1 *April Fools' Day!!*
- Mon 4 **Martley Parish Council Meeting**
8pm Memorial Hall
- Fri 8 **Partner Whist Drive** 8pm
Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Sun 10 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers around Martley to Frith Common Meet 2pm Church car park
- Mon 11 **Wichenford Annual Church Meeting** 7.30pm
- Wed 13 **Martley WI: Mrs V Collette talking about living and working in Saudi Arabia.** 7.30pm Sport Martley
- Sun 17 **Walking Not Working with the Path-or-Nones.** Meet 9.30am Village Hall car Park to help survey the footpaths
- Mon 18 **Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council Meeting** 7.45pm
Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Tue 19 **Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship**
2.30pm
- Wed 20 **Wichenford Heritage Group: Lecture "Say Hello to History"**
- Thu 21 **Meeting of The Wine Club** 8pm
Wichenford Memorial Hall

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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 7 March 2005 at the Memorial Hall. Cllr Mr. D. Cropp Chairman

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

Mr. N. Bruen presented a copy of his report concerning B4197 Ankerdine Hill. It covered the potentially dangerous situation with HGVs being unable to pass due to the narrowness of the road and then being unable to start on the steep part of the hill. Concern was also expressed about the close proximity of the road edge and the steep drop into the valley. A solution urgently needs to be found before a serious accident occurs. It was suggested that perhaps the weight restriction on Bell Lane could be lifted temporarily until the Northern Relief Road is built. Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor is to attend the Freight Quality Partnership Meeting in the near future when this subject will be discussed. Subject to the report back on that meeting the Clerk will write to WCC Highways Partnership and put the temporary suggestion.

District Councillor's Report:

District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams

reported that Malvern Hills portion of the Council Tax has increased by 3.9%; broken down for a "Band D" property as: MHDC £114.32, WCC £857.03, H&W Fire Auth £59.05, West Mercia Police £143.17, Martley Parish Precept £16.6. A site visit has taken place with Mr. M. Carless at Kenswick Manor ref. speed on B4204 and a variety of measures are to be studied. D. Cllr. Williams is a member of the Policy Development and Review Panel looking at rural affordable housing draft letting policy. It is suggested that Wichenford, Kenswick, Martley and Clifton-upon-Teme be grouped for letting purposes such that wherever the houses are built, any excess stock is offered to those persons who qualify within the group.

County Councillor's Report:

County Councillor Mr. A. Davies reported that the agreed increase in Council Tax is less than anticipated. C Cllr. Davies would like to meet with this parish council to discuss the road junction B4197/B4204. Chantry High School proposed extensions will need the definitive route of the footpath "Damson Walk" to be agreed and de-

termine if any changes are required. Ankerdine Hill problems had already been discussed and C. Cllr. Davies agreed there are a number of issues to be resolved.

Planning:

Applications received: 05/00347/FUL Three Acres Willow Rd. Stable Block (Cllr. Mr. M. Nott). Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn: None.

Finance:

There were eight cheques totalling £857.15 for agreement and signature

Parish Paths Warden Report:

The Clerk read out the report on progress.

Urgent Decisions since last meeting:

Cheque for Laugherne Valley Travel (£4874.81) signed prior to this meeting.

List of Suggested Grants:

It was reported that the Millennium Green Trust is now applying for a grant in its own right. Martley Broadband Mesh is applying for a grant to assist with training.

Replacement of Lengthman:

The Clerk reported that three applications had been received and that interviews would be held shortly.

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

The Clerk to write again about caravans at Lower Hollins Farm. The Clerk to follow up a reply from MHDC Planning ref. "Ancient Hedgerows". A discussion took place concerning this Council's liability under the new contract of employment for the Clerk. The Chairman explained

that the agreement was national and all Parish Councils are in the same situation; the changes were due to modern employment law.

The Chairman reported that a Pelican Crossing will be installed on the B4204 outside the schools.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 4. April 2005 at 8 p.m.

Tom Pearsall, Clerk
01886 888256

April Diary

Continued from p.9

- Sat 23 **St George's Day—celebrate at The Admiral Rodney with English folk music 9pm**
- Wed 27 **Chantry High School Drama**
- Fri 29 **Department production of 'Sweet Charity'**
- Thu 28 **Martley & District Horticultural Society: Judy Berrow, on "Starting from scratch 7.30pm**
Martley Memorial Village Hall

Joan Campbell Grant

Joan Campbell Grant was born into a Rectory family, one of four children. In her early days, her father, Canon Clibbon, was Rector in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

Later, an Open Scholarship took her to Durham University where she gained an Honours degree in English. Joan entered the publishing world and became the most senior woman nationally and internationally in what was then a very male-dominated industry. She worked for Hamlyn and then for Harper Collins, where she was a Director. Joan transformed the publishing of cookery books to a style we now take for granted.

Joan and Jeremy married in 1968 and laid plans for their retirement, with their friend Jim, with the purchase of the Old Hall at Martley (formerly the C.13th Rectory). They lived there until they moved to Malvern a few years ago.

A fine, open mind and a warm, generous heart: to this her many friends would testify. Somehow her instincts were equally radical and traditional. Joan had a sensitive social conscience and enjoyed the local community. She launched in Martley the award-winning magazine *The Villager*, deploying her editorial and management skills.

Joan was a knowledgeable and generous supporter of the arts. In recent years she had been a sponsor of

the English Symphony Orchestra and regularly attended the Malvern Theatre; she was also a supporter of Amnesty International and helped in one of their bookshops. Joan placed high importance on human spirituality, seeking to discern common threads within the diversity of human expression. For many years she practised solitary meditation and in her Martley years returned to active membership of the Church of England. Despite all her accomplishments, Joan retained a natural humility that made every conversation with her a pleasure. She was a source of encouragement, and the sound of her lovely voice echoes still! To Joan's husband, Jeremy, we respectfully offer our heart felt condolence.

B. Richards



Martley WI

Wednesday 13 April 7.30pm Sport Martley

We were all so sorry to hear of the death of Rene Freeman on 14 February. Before her move to Newbury to be near her family, she had been an active and loyal member serving on committee and as Treasurer.

This is the month we shall be hosting the Group Meeting on Monday 18th, back at the Memorial Hall for this one night, as we need the bigger venue it

can provide. It will be 'All hands on deck' and the sub-committee have plans well advanced. It is always fun meeting members of other Institutes and the speaker is someone well-known to us (Dave Bradley or 'Bradders'), as his mother is one of our members. The entertainment is by The Ballard Singers. Don't all rush to get the best table.

The speaker at our regular meeting on 13 April will be Mrs V Collette talking about living and working in Saudi Arabia. It will be interesting to hear how different it was from the troubled Middle East now. The competition is for a holiday souvenir (not photos or that dishy Italian waiter).



Kate King

Royal British Legion

The February meeting was well attended and much business discussed and plans made for future functions, the first being a Fish and Chip Supper, with well known speaker Joe Walters, a retired policeman, in the Village Hall, Broadwas on Friday 8 April at 7.30pm. This date was agreed prior to the announcement of the marriage of Prince Charles with Mrs Camilla Parker-Bowles, so I doubt they will be joining us!

On Sunday 26 June we will be visiting the Violette Szabo, GC Museum at Wormelow, Herefordshire. We will be travelling by coach, times to be

decided later, but if you wish to join us please ring me. The more the merrier and cheaper! Plans are also afoot to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of the second World War – so watch this space. The March meeting was Monday 7 March at the Talbot Hotel, Knightwick, which has been our 'home' for many years and where we are well looked after by the Clift family and their staff.

Joyce Tyler, Hon Secretary (01886-821551)

Martley & District Horticultural Society

February's meeting of the Society was extremely well attended, considering the inclement weather. The chairman, Barbara Kirby, welcomed everyone and introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Dr Eric Jones, who talked about "The beauty and diversity of our National Parks". Illustrating his talk with interesting slides, he described the National Parks of England and Wales, of which there are fourteen. There are three in Wales, Snowdonia, Pembrokeshire Coast and The Brecon Beacons; in England, Northumberland, The Lake District, North Yorkshire Moors, Yorkshire Dales, Peak District, The Broads, South Downs, Exmoor, Dartmoor, with the latest edition of The New Forest. The Council of National Parks is a charity formed in 1949 by volunteers and organisations that work to protect and enhance the National Parks. They act as guardians

for these areas so that they may be preserved for future generations to enjoy. The pressures to use some of this land for other purposes grows greater with time; the need for building land, leisure parks and quarrying being some of the examples. He was thanked by Ray Ellis.

At the meeting on 28 April 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall, the speaker will be Judy Berrow, her subject "Starting from scratch – creation and development of a new garden". New members most welcome. Members are reminded of the **Annual Plant and Car Boot Sale. This year it will be held on Saturday 21 May at 2pm** in the Village Hall and on the playing field. Lots of plants needed. Details in the May issue of The Villager.

Nellie Bradley

Chantry News

Social Events Struggle for Support

At the last meeting, a considerable amount of time was given over to discussing the recent lack of support for social events that have been organised by the Friends. These events are used to raise funds for extra-curricula activities and items of equipment not funded by the school budget. The Skittles Evening arranged for the 25 February had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour and as costs had to be covered and actually caused a deficit of £35. It was suggested that the fundraising to raise the required financial contribution for

the Specialist Technology School Status had left people with 'fundraiser fatigue' To try to find out exactly how parents would prefer to see fundraising carried out and for suggestions of the events they would support, it is proposed to send a letter to every pupil's household next term.

School Production - Sweet Charity

The School Drama Department is staging a production of 'Sweet Charity' on Weds 27 Thurs 28 and Fri 29 April. Details of tickets will be in the School Newsletter. Refreshments will be available on the night by Table Service. The Friends will be running a raffle on each of the three nights and would welcome the donation of suitable prizes. We would rather not have the home-made jumper Auntie knitted for you. However, if you have any surplus-to-requirement bottles of wine or spirits, they would be most suitable.

CPSE Days

It would seem some parents are unsure as to the reason for, and relevance of, the content of CPSE Days. CPSE is now a part of the school curriculum and required to support personal development and citizenship. It is therefore proposed that a future Friends meeting should be timetabled to allow parents to attend and hear answers to these questions from teachers. Further details will be available nearer the date.

The next meeting will be Thursday 5 May at 8pm in the staffroom at the school.

Martley Ramblers

10 April 2pm Church car park

We all enjoyed the annual dinner at the Fox and Hounds. The meal was tasty, served with smiles by the staff. There were not too many furrowed brows at the after dinner quiz. Irene and Monty Walker were the winners with Pam Bowers and Alex Walker the runners up. We are assured there was no cheating. Many thanks to Sue Hoskins for all the arrangements. This month the Walker family will be leading us around Frith Common. This is not punishment for winning the quiz, it was arranged at the AGM last November. See you all at 2pm sharp at Church car park.

Kate King



The Ramblers enjoy their annual dinner (photo by N. Stammers)

News from The Crown at Martley

New dishes are on the menu for Spring, with the introduction of informal meals for people who would like something to eat but not the formality of a full restaurant meal. and settees will be appearing to allow customers to sit in more comfort in the bar area. These are just some of the ideas that manager Darren Yong and his wife have had in their endeavour to make The Crown at Martley a true community venue. During our chat in February, Darren also told me that The Crown is now popular with the football teams on Sunday mornings – after the match or practice, of course! Darren also said that he has plans to open up the new outdoor patio area with seating and tables and to create a play space for children – all we need now is some suitable weather for sitting outdoors! Darren also let slip that he and his wife are anticipating a Happy Event in the early summer – watch this space for more news!

Michelle Higgins

Pudford Lane

The theme of the Worcestershire WI calendar for 2006 is to be “Water in Worcestershire”. Following on The Calendar Girls, suggestions have been made for an entry entitled “Paddling in Pudford”. Any offers to participate or sponsor a Paddler? RCS have sent various workmen to look at the water.

They drank coffee, had extended tea breaks, dug out a small channel at the side of the road, erected orange plastic fencing and left for a day or two. Then they returned, removed the fencing and filled in the channel. Future developments are awaited. Watch this space.

News items have recently mentioned that stressed out executives, mainly male and in USA, are relaxing by taking up knitting. Comments have been made that perhaps this is needed here and The Pudford Purlers be formed. As present discrimination laws are severe, it could not be restricted only to males and stressed out executives. Sources of knitting wool and patterns could quickly be found if wanted.

Kate King



Knightwick and District Trefoil Guild

Fourteen of us met at The Old Rectory on a very cold winters afternoon, on February 22nd "Thinking Day" (the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the founders of the Girl Guide movement,) when we "THINK" of Guides all over the world.

We had a very special ceremony led by Pat Bradley, we had readings and prayers and sang many songs from

around the world, including the Lords Prayer to the tune of Kum Ba Yah, on Sunday 28th several of us joined the County Guiding community at a service in the Cathedral, we again sang the Lords Prayer, Cliff Richards version, with actions, it was a very moving experience, wonderful to see the Cathedral full of young people and to know that Guiding is flourishing in the County.

Geraldine Cooper.

A Date For Your Diary

Knightwick School. 1988 - 1957

A reunion is to be held on Sunday June 26 2005 at 2p.m. in the Parish Room, (the old telephone exchange, next to the church). Anyone associated with the school or interested in meeting up with old acquaintances (including non-pupils) will be most welcome.

There will be an exhibition of the history of the school, if anyone has any old photos or memories they would like to share they would be very much appreciated.

Geraldine Cooper (nee Chaplin).

Old friends and family

Sara E. Williams

Is there a Sara E Williams in your vicinity? Last known address: 3, Hipplecote Cottages. Martley, Worcs. Knew her LONG ago. Need to send some photos and discuss consciousness. If you know of her, pls forward this. Thanks.

H Gregg, "Ashdene", 4 Keighley Rd,

Hebden Bridge HX7 8LL
01422 845543 07849 843918
email: h@3-c.CoOp

Bus in a Field

I used to live in Martley and therefore am familiar with The Villager. As I am interested in family history, I was looking at the website called curious fox. I saw the message below posted at curious fox web site and wondered if anyone in the area might be able to help the person who posted the query. I believe if anyone can help the lady with her query they can post a message on the website:
www.curiousfox.com.

Lisa Lang

“Evacuated to Martley in WW II
Does anyone in the area in and around Martley recall a double-decker bus in a field near to the local school which was home to myself and three other young cousins in and around 1939/40? We were in the charge of a Great Aunt and stayed for several months shortly after the beginning of the war. Any information about this unusual home would be gratefully received.”

News from The Admiral Rodney

Cherry Tree Photographic Competition

Are there any villagers interested in photography? The Admiral Rodney is providing an opportunity for someone to have their work displayed permanently in the bar.

When the cherry tree at the front of the

pub is in bloom, we would like people to take photographs of the tree. Kenneth and Gillian will then judge



the photographs and winning one will be enlarged and framed and displayed over the fireplace in prime position! This costs nothing to enter and the closing date will be when all the blossom has gone.

St George's Day—23 April 9pm

We are using this occasion to draw together the musical talent of Martley to sing and play English folk music, using The Admiral Rodney as a venue. If you would like to join in, either in a group or as a solo artist, please just let Kenneth or Gillian know.

Abberley & Witley Scout Group

Scout & Cub leader to leave !

Matt Wattis, our scout and cub leader, is to leave in April due to work commitments. We will find it very difficult to continue without him: so are there any potential leaders out there?

If you are interested call Tom Pearsall on 01886 888256 or e-mail tom_pearsall@lineone.net

Thank You!

Peter Downes would like to say "Thank you" to two kind villagers – a man passing in a car and a woman in a wheel-chair – who helped him on a Sunday morning in March when his scooter tipped over.

Martley Spurs

February was a good month on the whole but, of course you cannot win them all. The Saturday Premier side started off the month really well by beating the Lamb and Flag team in their away Baylis Cup tie 6 - 2, hat tricks by both Cris Collins and Tony Farnsworth.

The Sunday Premier eleven did not do so well the next day, their three goals was not enough to beat Droitwich Spa who netted five. However the Spa's Reserves got beaten by the Spurs' Reserves. Another Cup tie win followed on the 12th when the Saturday side beat All Blacks 3 - 0 in their Baylis Cup group one game, Tony Farnsworth getting a pair of those. The Sunday Premier eleven had a great win the next day when they beat Powick 6 - 1 with Mike Fellows netting a couple. On the same day the Reserves lost to Pillar of Salt.

Another cup tie was to come on the 19th, this time against Great Malvern which proved a further great win, 5 - 0, which means they are to play the final of the Martley Cup. Daryl Gormley netted a couple. The 20th signed up another win for the Sunday

Premier side who shocked the Division leaders Perrywood - on their home ground! -, by beating them 3 - 1. A pair notched up to Chris Collins and Steve Prickett got the other.

The last weekend of the month saw the Saturday eleven win their away game with Tolladine by four goals to one, Chris Collins playing the hero again by netting a brace. The Sunday Premier side lost 4 - 1 to Archdales, the favourites for the Division title, but the Reserves did much better with a 6 - 2 win over All Blacks.

Beth Williams

• • • • •
• *This Month in Martley* •
• *100 years ago* •
•
• April – At the Annual Par- •
• ish Meeting this year, •
• “Reference was made to •
• the proposition of a scheme •
• for the construction of a •
• railway to pass through •
• Martley, but no resolution •
• on the subject was formu- •
• lated”. (Didn’t they care!?) •
• *ALB* •
• • • • •



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Wichenford Church News

Church Flowers

3 April Easter flowers
10 April Mrs Randall
17 April Mrs A Banks
24 April Mrs Root

Annual Church Meeting

Monday 11 April – the Annual Church Meeting in Church at 7.30pm, so please come if you can. This is the once a year opportunity to have a say in Church matters and hear about our finances. Open to all.

Ladies' Fellowship

19 April – Ladies Fellowship meet at 2.30pm, venue to be decided nearer the time.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness we record the death of Joan Campbell Grant in hospital after a short illness. Joan will be remembered especially in Wichenford and Martley for her work as the first Editor of *The Villager*. Together with the then Rector, Canon Bill Richards, whose idea it was, and with his wife Jane, they got it off the



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

ground in 1992. The professionalism and knowledge that Joan brought to it laid down the guidelines for the excellent village magazine it has now become. Both Joan and Jeremy Campbell Grant made many friends in both our villages, who very much regret her passing.

Pam Webb

Wichenford Gardens

The gardens will be open on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 July. If you have any books or bric-a-brac, offers of help etc, please telephone 01886-888158.

Wichenford 100 Club

February winner: L Matthews. Ticket 77. £112.

Millennium Green Tidying & Inspection Rota

April: H Howell

Heritage Group

The Heritage Group met at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 16 February. Mary Hylan welcomed members and announced that the AGM would be held on Wednesday 16 March. The lecture by Pamela Hurle gave a fascinating and informed portrait of Upton-upon-Severn, telling of how the town was an important local market and a busy centre for river traffic. Arrangements are being made for a series of autumn lectures.

On 20 April there will be a lecture by David Burton-Pye entitled "Say Hello to History".

Tony Banks 1914-2005

My father was born on 17 April 1914 at Sanhampton Farm in Astley where he lived with his parents and five sisters. His father, George Herbert Banks, founded in 1898 the firm of Auctioneers, Valuers and Land Agents known as G Herbert Banks. In the 1920s my Grandfather bought the Hill House Farm in Great Witley: a farm with arable, stock and fruit, which also had some hops. My Grandfather was a busy man, dividing his time between farm and business. My father went to a small school in Stourport before going on to Bromsgrove and helped on the farm during the holidays, which he enjoyed enormously. On leaving Bromsgrove in 1931 he joined his father's firm as a pupil and passed his valuers and surveyors exams over the next few years.

My mother's family were living at the Bank House at Stanford Bridge at this time, and she was introduced to my father by her brother, David Neale. This meeting culminated in their marriage in 1941, and they moved into the Grove Farm at Dunley. They spent many happy years there, during which time they had 5 children.

In 1946 my Grandfather died, leaving my father to run the business and two farms. In 1956 he sold the Grove Farm and moved to Laughern Hill and we were made to feel very welcome by everyone in the Parish of Wichenford. My father became involved in many aspects of Parish life, serving on the PCC, Parish Council and Memorial Hall Committee. Under his leadership, and due to his popularity and hard work, the business grew and grew until it became Banks & Silvers with 11 offices and control of Kidderminster Market. As his home life was extremely well organised, he was able to concentrate on the work he loved, and to enjoy his hobbies of shooting and fishing.

In 1968 he bought the Cob House Farm from Frank Gill, and he gained a lot of pleasure from rearing cattle and sheep. Cattle were his passion and he was an extremely good judge of them – a talent that helped him become one of the finest cattle auctioneers in the country. In 1987 the business was bought out by the insurance group General Accident, and my father, somewhat reluctantly, retired. He retained a keen interest in the farm,

which I had taken over in 1974, and it was a great help to me to have the benefit of his experience. He later became a consultant in the new firm of G Herbert Banks which my brothers re-started together 3 years after selling Banks & Silvers.

We had many happy fishing trips to Hampshire which he loved, and some excellent days shooting, and he also had more time to spend with his children and grandchildren. He loved having his family around him.

He died peacefully at home at the age of 90 and was buried at Astley near his parents and grandparents. Three hundred and fifty people of all ages and from all walks of life came to his memorial service and filled St Peter's church at Martley to overflowing. A fitting tribute to a wonderful man.

William Banks

An evening with Philip Serrell

Thursday 12 May at Wichenford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Philip Serrell is a well-known TV personality, appearing in BBC 2's antiques show "Flog it!". He is an auctioneer and valuer of antiques and fine arts and has many interesting and amusing stories to tell. He will also bring along some items for you to try to value.

Join us for what promises to be a very lively evening. Tickets cost £7.50 and must be purchased by 5 May to ensure

your place. Please bring your own refreshments as there will be no bar.

Telephone William or Annie Banks to book tickets for you and your friends on 01886-888224.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kate and Mark Russell of Meadow View, Wichenford on the safe arrival on 'Pancake Day' of their son, Archie George.



Road Safety Reminder

Approximately 2,000 people are killed on rural roads every year in the UK. And this figure is rising every year.

About 70% of those killed are in cars.

If you hit someone with your car when you are travelling at 40mph, there is an 85% chance that you will kill them.

It is illegal to travel at 40mph when there is a speed restriction of 30mph. When you are caught you will be fined and have penalty points added to your driving license.

Concentrate when you are driving. Remember that many rural roads have no pavements or verges, so be considerate of other road users such as cyclists, horse-riders, joggers.

Worcestershire Sitting Service

Sometimes, as we get older, our health may not be as good as it was when we were young and often we rely on a husband, wife, partner, son or daughter to provide the support we need to stay at home.

Can you imagine what it must be like to care for someone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Can you imagine how difficult it is to find the time to do a weekly shop, visit the hairdressers, catch up with friends or just have time to yourself, knowing that the person you care for is in safe hands?

No matter how much you love and care for someone, it is important to have time for yourself. Without this time, it is very difficult to carry on providing valuable support to family and loved ones.

This is where Worcestershire Sitting Service steps in. Managed by Age Concern Herefordshire & Worcestershire, we recruit volunteer sitters who are able to offer 2 or 3 hours weekly/monthly to sit with an older person, maybe make a cup of tea and have a chat, so that their full time carer can have the time to do the things that most of us take for granted.

If you read this and have a little time to spare, or need the support of a sitter, please contact Sue or Miriam on 01905-726652. They will be happy to give you more information.

Sudan Correspondent—Part 3

An announcement on the public address system (a lady with a very loud voice who held the microphone so close to her mouth that everything came out distorted) resulted in many people getting up and rushing around trying to force themselves out of the door to the runway. The first time it happened I thought we were in for a terrorist attack!

Eventually, I got quite adept at looking for the boarding cards of these herds, trying to decide whether stampede. I spoke to one that he had joined in three been sent back each time catch the wrong flight!

For a thousand miles I saw nothing but desert.

this was my particular passenger who told me of these exoduses and because he was trying to We are so used to

announcements and screens giving times and details of flights that when these are not available, you have to rely more on gut instinct than anything else.

With plenty of time to 'stand and stare', I noticed a rather peculiar thing: at a guess, I would say that over 80% of the people waiting for a flight were Sudanese, about 15% were from other African races and the rest were from various other countries worldwide, with what looked like five Europeans (although they could have been Americans). There were probably 400-500 people altogether in the hall. Though many people were reading papers, looking at boarding cards, etc, only six were wearing any type of spectacles and of those five, four were white-skinned of European ancestry. I now wonder whether many here in the UK really need glasses and maybe people are wooed by the constant adverts reminding us that it is fashionable to wear them? Considering that many thousands of people suffer from eye diseases on the African continent and we were in a region noted for its dusty atmosphere, the lack of eye-wear was surprising.

Eventually we boarded the plane. This was preceded by the usual x-raying of hand luggage, followed by another physical search of all luggage and body. All this for just an internal flight! The only unusual incident for me during the flight was that refreshments were offered. Of the passengers, only a small handful took up the offer of food as most were Muslim and everyone fasts during Ramadan. Flying, as we did, fairly low-down without the benefit of pressurised cabins, the ground was clearly visible for the whole of the flight. For a thousand miles I saw nothing but desert. Not the soft,



sandy desert of the Sahara, but a hard-looking and parched land with only a few scrub like trees, widely spaced, dotted here and there. No people, no roads, no animals, no nothing. Plenty of evidence was to be seen of old watercourses, appearing as nothing but a depression in the sandy soil now that the rainy season is over. Only twice during the whole journey was any standing water to be seen: two small pools that occurred right towards the end of the flight. How lucky we are in the UK with our green countryside and ever changing seasons.

Nyala October 17th 2004

The temperature here in Nyala is rising fast. Not only in terms of heat, which has been consistently in the high 80s to low 90s during the day, with a slight reduction at night, but also in terms of personal frustration at being unable to accomplish the tasks I had carefully planned. In the one week I have spent here so far, I am about as far forward as I would have been in half a day in the UK.

Facilities are very basic; every item of food, equipment or spare parts has to be airlifted, at great expense into the region. The most precious commodity here is undoubtedly fresh drinking water. At present we are relying entirely upon imported bottled water. Water is never wasted; even the toilet and washing facilities are designed so as to allow the water

... every one of us in Martley flushes gallons of good drinking water down the loo every day without giving it a thought

to be recycled. Where water is available, it is pumped from underground, providing the electricity supply has not been cut off again, and stored in tanks above the buildings. These containers sit in the full glare of the daytime sun getting ever hotter and hotter as time passes. By evening, the temperature of water in the tanks has risen to such a degree that hot water almost to hot to handle flows out of the showerhead! And every one of us in Martley flushes gallons of good drinking water down the loo every day without giving it a thought ...

From first light until dusk, the temperature here is overbearing. Combined with dust everywhere, it is not a favourable atmosphere in which to work. Visiting the offices of some of the major players in Nyala, such as WFP, UNDP and UNHCR, the air conditioning proves a welcome relief from the stifling heat. The temperature inside all stationary vehicles is so great that paper turns brown if left in full view of the sun all day! The room I sleep in has a ceiling fan and a smaller floor-standing fan. Both are operating continuously throughout the night and even with the floor fan directed towards the mosquito net covered bed, I am still not cool. With the electricity cut off, which it usually is anyway, I sweat like a pig.

As an idea of the circumstances in which we work in Darfur, I would count the

following as typical: part of my job entails installing, repairing and programming mobile HF radios for use in and around refugee and displaced persons camps. This method of communication is the only reliable and secure means available during an emergency situation. There are few telephones available here and, where they exist, are pretty unreliable. Sending e-mail is like watching paint dry - very, very slow - with no guarantee of completion. Anyway, it's very easy to knock out a telephone system, microwave, mobile or otherwise.

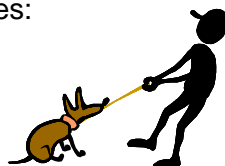
John Layton

Spring is in the air—St Peter's Spring Fayre

Spring is in the air, but as I write this it has snowed and its freezing! Lambs, flowers weddings and much more begin, and this year a Church Fayre!

Although we had a very successful Autumn Fayre in September 2004, our original intention was to hold the fayre in the Spring so this year we are holding one in May. It will include a MINI FUN DOG SHOW and you are invited to bring your dogs for the following categories:

- Dog most like its owner
- Dog with the waggiest tail
- Dog with the most appealing eyes
- Best groomed dog

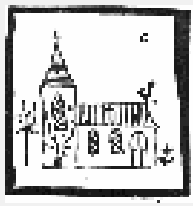


For those who do not have dogs, there is also a FUN PET SHOW. The categories will include:

- Best condition of a family pet
- Best group of family pets
- Most attractive colour or marking on a pet
- The pet the judge would most like to take home

The Spring Fayre will also include games, cake stalls, plant stalls, bric a brac, tombola and refreshments, all of which will take place on the rectory field. Reverend Sherwin might even bring his puppets!

If you can offer any help or would like to enter your dog or pet in advance, then please let us know. For further information please telephone Reverend David Sherwin on 01886 888664 or Mel Williams 01886 888703 for info about the Dog Show.



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

It seems strange that April is clear of Lenten and Easter Day Celebrations, Easter Day has been so early this year. However we continue to celebrate the season of Easter until Ascension Day, Thursday 5 May, which quickly leads into Pentecost (Whit Sunday) 15 May. Christians have from early times debated the date of Easter. It was eventually agreed at the council of Nicea (AD 325) that it should fall on the first Sunday after the spring full moon, rather than on the Jewish date of Passover 14 Nisan as some had been celebrating. Which is why the celebration moves each year. However not all customs surrounding Easter are of Christian origin

The word 'Easter' is derived from the Anglo Saxon goddess of the dawn and spring 'Eostre', the celebrations were to celebrate renewed growth after the dormant period of winter. The egg was the symbol of the life force. Easter Bunnies are derived from the symbol of 'Eostre', the hare, a symbol of 'luck and fertility'.

Our modern celebration of Easter, like Christmas, is a fusion of Anglo Saxon customs with Christian festivals. The Christian themes of death and Resurrection made obvious comparisons to those who brought the

Christian Gospel to these Islands, enabling the Christians to compare the dawn of a new world order brought in by Christ's death and Resurrection. The very life force now being given to Christ with his power over death by rising to life again.

Easter is a wonderful season, coinciding with the spring, we see new life wherever we look, and for Christians, the sure reminder that Jesus is risen, bringing the promise of resurrection for his followers.

As the early Church would say and we do today, 'Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia'!

Revd David Sherwin

Confirmation If there is anyone interested in pursuing Confirmation please let me, Rev David Sherwin (01886 888664), know as there will be a confirmation service for our Deanery at **St. John's Worcester Sunday 8 May 4.00pm.**

Harvest Advance notice is given for your diary that Martley Harvest Supper will be on **Saturday 1 October, followed by the Harvest Service on Sunday 2 October 11am at St. Peter's Church**

Church Diary for April

- Sun 3rd April** 8.00am Holy Communion Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion St Laurence Wichenford
11.00am Family Worship St Peter Martley
11am Morning Worship St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
6.30pm Evensong St Leonard Cotheridge
- Tues 5th April 10am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
- Wed 6th April 7.30pm Martley Harvest Supper Meeting at Rectory
- Sun 10th April** 8.00am Holy Communion St Leonard Cotheridge
10.00am Family Worship St Laurence Wichenford
11.00am Holy Communion St Peter Martley
11.00am Morning Worship St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
6.30pm Youth Meeting, Martley Rectory
- Mon 11th April 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at The White House. home of Rob and Helen Barlow
7.30pm Annual Church Meeting St Laurence Wichenford
- Tues 12th April 7.30pm Annual Church Meeting St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
- Wed 13th April 10.15am Songs of Praise Heaton House
- Sun 17th 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
11.00am Morning Prayer St Laurence Wichenford
3.00pm Evening Worship Knightwick Chapel
6.30pm Youth Meeting, Martley Rectory
- Tues 19th April 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
- Weds 20th April 7.30pm Annual Church Meeting St Peter Martley
- Sun 24th April** 8.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
9.30am Holy Communion St Peter Martley
11.00am Family Worship St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
11.00am Holy Communion St Laurence Wichenford
6.30pm Evening Worship St Peter Martley
- Wed 27th April 10.15am Holy Communion Heaton House
7.30pm Wardens Meeting Knightwick Village Hall
- Thurs 28th April David's Commissioning to the College of Evangelists, Worcester Cathedral. I have been invited to join an Anglican order of Evangelists for work which I have been involved with and continue to be.

This years **Rogation Service** will be on **Sunday 8th May 11.00am** at Hope House Farm, Hope House Lane, Martley, The home of Tony and Barbara Kirby. We are very grateful for their hospitality. This is a special Benefice Service, particularly relevant for the farming community. If you are involved in farming please do come and join us for this event.

In the Garden



Garden Tips for April

April - a busy month for gardeners: planting plants, sowing seeds, spraying fruit trees against pests and diseases. Broad beans can be sown up to the end of this month. Sow onion seed, plant onion sets. Sow the seed of summer and autumn cabbage, beetroot, carrots, parsnips, peas, leeks, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and potatoes.

Hardy annuals can be sown outdoor this month, if weather conditions are favourable. These include candytuft, clarkia, cornflower, coreopsis, godetia, lavatera and nigella. Many plants will benefit from a sprinkling of fertiliser around the roots.

Tie in the stems of winter flowering jasmine to supports of trellis, wires, stakes etc. Prune any unwanted growth after flowering. Tomato plants will be ready to plant out in the greenhouse.

Jack Bradley

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

Services at Martley Post office

Banking Services: Personal Banking: pay in cash and cheques, cash cheques with a valid cheque guarantee card. All free of charge.

Travel Products: E111: free medical treatment within EEC countries. Low-cost travel insurance. Annual insurance issued over the counter. 0% commission on foreign currency and travellers cheques (excluding sterling travellers cheques). Currency is available four working days from date of order. Agents for a travel agency.

Home Insurance: Cheaper home insurance for low-income families, a free phone number is available and free quotation provided. A leaflet is provided in the post office.

Phone Services: Phone cards to top up 'pay-as-you-go' phones. Networks might charge when registering, but overall rates are cheaper. Copies of the rates are available. Top-up cards for O2, Vodafone, T-Mobile and Virgin.

Flowers: Bunches quality flowers delivered by post at a reasonable cost.

Shop Facilities: Photo copying, faxing, laminating, video and DVD hire.

Film Processing: Films take 3-5 working days. Photos put onto discs.

Advertising in the shop window

Cash point: with a small charge, except Alliance & Leicester customers.

Items for purchase

Tobacco, wine, beer, spirits, soft drinks, sweets, crisps, ice cream, film for cameras, disposable cameras, batteries, torches, lottery, scratch cards, greetings cards, postcards, gifts. Tyrrell crisps made locally by a farmer in Leominster.

Paintings by a local artist

Agents for a computer repair company.

Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Michelle Higgins editor@martley.org.uk <i>or</i> 01886 888344 <i>or</i> leave articles at the Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Neil Stammers neil.stammers@btinternet.c om <i>or</i> 01886 888513
Church	Rector: Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 Curate: Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org.uk
Martley Parish Council	Chair: Dave Cropp—01886 888398; Clerk: Tom Pearsall—01886 888256
Martley WI	Pat Crook—01886 888550
Martley & Dist Hort. Soc.	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 <i>or</i> Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303, Sheila Richards— 01886 888378
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Counl.	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Secretary—Mike Holmes 01905 641739
Trefoil Guild	geraldine.cooper@btopenw orld.com