

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 14 No. 7

December 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*

## December 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 3 **Martley & District Horticultural Society Christmas Dinner** 7pm  
Martley Memorial Village Hall  
**Prize Bingo in aid of Charlotte's Trust** 7pm Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Sat 4 **Christmas Fayre in aid of Acorns Childrens Hospice** 2pm Martley Village Hall
- Mon 6 **Nora Parsons Day Centre Christmas Fayre** 2pm  
**Martley Parish Council Meeting** 8pm  
Memorial Hall
- Wed 8 **Martley WI: Christmas Meeting** 7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall
- Fri 10 **Christmas Whist Drive** 8pm  
Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Sat 11 **Martley Royal British Legion Xmas Coffee Morning** 10.30am Heaton House  
**Valentines ladies Choir at Abberley Church** 7.30pm
- Sun 12 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
- Mon 13 **Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council Meeting** 7.30pm Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Fri 17 **Wine Club Christmas Meeting** 8pm  
Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Sun 19 **Walking Not Working with The Path-or-Nones.**, surveying the local footpaths. Meet 9.30am Village Hall carpark.
- Mon 20 **Carol Singing** 7pm Heaton House
- Fri 24 **Christmas Eve**
- Sat 25 **Christmas Day**
- Sun 26 **Boxing Day**
- Fri 31 **New Year's Eve**

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

# OUT AND ABOUT I N MARTLEY

Visit our website—[www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk)



## *Martley Parish Council*

An ordinary meeting of the Martley Parish Council was held on Monday 1 November 2004 at the Memorial Hall; Cllr Mr. D. Cropp Chairman. In attendance were also 10 members of the public.

### The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

A parishioner raised the matter of Taylor's yard development, Worcester Road, and declared that she had heard that none of the houses were to be designated as low-cost housing. The Chairman explained that no approval had been given yet and that he and the Clerk had attended the last planning meeting to speak in favour of the development, which then included 50% low-cost housing. He invited the parishioner to join him at the next MHDC planning meeting. D Cllr Mrs. B. Williams will also attend this and support the Sect 106 agreement (housing association) for this development. A parishioner enquired about the latest position of The Crown car park. The Clerk read out the hand-delivered letter from Mr. C. Bocoek (Chief Exec. MHDC), which referred

to the change of detail on the planning application and the lighting of large bonfires. A parishioner raised the MHDC rebate notification (council tax) and expressed a view that it seemed ridiculous that the cost of notifying the public exceeded the cost of the rebate. The Chairman and C.Cllr Mr. A. Davies explained that the rebate was at the national government's direction and that it had to be paid within the fiscal period; MHDC is only the charging authority. Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 October 2004

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

### Communication

The Clerk presented the revised list of duties.

### District Councillor's Report

District Cllr Mrs. B. Williams mentioned that it had been brought to her attention that the footpath near Hillcrest, Ankerdine was overgrown; the Clerk to notify the Path-or-Nones. The waste bin at Collins Green is overgrown; the Clerk will arrange for the Lengthman to investigate and clear.

### County Councillor's Report:

County Cllr. Mr. A. Davies welcomed the official opening of the library. On the matter of Ankerdine Hill, he has met Mr. Hanchard and discussed the issue. The Police Authority statistics show that crime continues to be reduced in the area. The report on schools in Martley has been done and forecasts a slow decline in numbers based on the demographics. The report on road safety/camera partnership shows accidents down 61% in the camera sites. The Worcester orbital ring road is currently being discussed with Worcester City Council. The Chairman mentioned that The Old Grammar School Foundation had recently given out 38 grants which is very creditable to our young people in Martley.

### Correspondence

Included: United Benefice of Martley, Wichenford and the Lower Teme - Burial Space in Martley (now of some concern). Martley Memorial Hall Electricity prices. Nominet.uk Registration of Martley.org.uk confirmed from 17 July 2004 for 2 years. The Path or Nones Ancient Hedgerows. Sir Michael Spicer Surgery times. MHDC License renewal Admiral Rodney. NHS Patient Advice and Liaison Service. Community First AGM 25 Nov. Citizens Advice Bureau Request for donation greater than last year. MHDC Planning Services Parish Councillor Focus Group 18 Nov 2-4pm. FWAG Hedgerow Restoration & Management

23 Nov. Martley Recreation Association fund waste bin? (GT declare interest). MHDC Reply from Mr. C. Bocoock re. The Crown

### Planning

Applications received: 04/01751/FUL Tree Tops Hillside, Bungalow. 04/01704/FUL Goonwindi Berrow Green, Extn.

Applications Approved /Refused/Withdrawn: 04/01422/FUL 1 Brickyard Cottage, Approved.

Other issues: Local Plan Questionnaire, completed. Local Plan Second Deposit.

### Finance

There were 8 cheques totalling £1047.67 for agreement and signature.

### Parish Paths Warden Report

Mr. Nicklin was not present so the Clerk read out his report.

### Road Junction B4197/B4204 Centre of Village

Cllr. Mr. G. Coombey-Jones and the Clerk will submit a report to Highways for their consideration. A copy to be sent to C. Cllr Mr. A. Davies.

### Dates of Meetings for 2005

The list was submitted and agreed.

### Ancient Hedgerows

The Clerk read out a letter from The Path-or-Nones referring to hedgerows adjacent to footpaths 53 and 55. Cllr. Mr. M. Nott confirmed that hedgerows cannot be taken out without application, therefore no preservation order is necessary. The Clerk was instructed to examine the relevant law and report later.

### Urgent Decisions since last meeting

There were none

### Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas

The B 4197 just south of Horn Lane has a number of potholes; the Lengthman to investigate. The condition of the B 4197 just north of Taylors offices is deteriorating; the Lengthman to investigate. Prickley Green Lane is being damaged by large tractors hauling potatoes. Some discussion took place about damage to small country lanes by these contract tractors. Ash trees in St. Peters Drive; the Clerk to write to Elgar Housing requesting trimming.

### Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Monday 6 December 2004 at 8 p.m.

*Tom Pearsall*

*Clerk 01886 888256*



## *Martley WI*

### **Wednesday 8 December 7.30pm**

Christmas Goodies are on the menu this month. What a lovely thought. Miss J Harper will be demonstrating ideas and judging the competition for shortbread, so let's have lots of entries.

It has been a busy but happy year, with talks ranging from homeopathy to carpet designing, from caricatures to fire safety. Has everyone resolved to check their smoke alarm monthly and

fit new batteries yearly, and not to have it in the kitchen?

We've cooked and sold cakes and painted pots and tried belly dancing. What delights will 2005 bring? Why not come and find out on the second Wednesday of each month. Visitors and new members always welcome.

*Kate King*

## *Martley Ramblers*

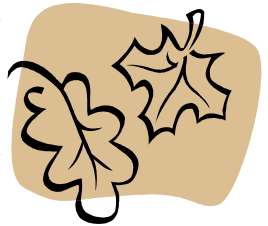
Another season of walking over and although the turnout has been lower for various reasons, everyone agrees it has been a good season, in spite of being such a wet summer.

The programme for 2005 has been arranged, so watch this space. There is no walk this month, due to the early onset of darkness. We do not want to be caught out in the dark wood, miles from home.

Glorious autumn colours and golden sunshine was laid on by Pam Bowers when she led around river, canal and

woodland at Stourport and Bewdley. Some, who shall be nameless, took advantage of a rest stop to buy doughnuts and icecreams. Perhaps a gentle waddle or two over the Christmas period will keep us in trim ready for the start of next season. Happy Christmas to all.

*Kate King*



## ***Martley & District Horticultural Society***

Guest speaker at the October meeting of the Society was Dr Tony Hughes, who gave a most informative talk illustrated with many slides on "British Wild Orchids". Dr Hughes became interested in wild orchids when he was only ten years old. He is chairman of the Hardy Orchids Society. Members found the talk most interesting as the subject was far greater than most gardeners realised. Species of wild orchids are found all over the world, and in the British Isles there are 55 known species. They can be found in woodland, up mountains, on wetland and in sand dunes. Dr Hughes explained ways to recognise many orchids as the range and shapes are so vast. All those present will be taking greater interest in orchids in the future. The Society's Annual Dinner is on Friday 3 December in Martley Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm. This is always an enjoyable evening. Names to the Society's Secretary Mrs O'Leary by Wednesday 1 December please (Tel: 01886-888253).

At the first meeting of 2005 on Thursday 27 January 7.30pm Martley Village Hall, the speaker will be Maurice Bracher. His subject "Climbers, Ramblers and Scramblers".

### ***Martley & District Pre-school***

We have had a very busy year. The first half was dominated by the

development of our garden. We were awarded a £3,000 lottery grant "Awards for All" to build a purpose built play area for our children. This encompasses lots of features to encourage exciting, adventurous play. Our little tots are suddenly transformed into intrepid explorers, green-fingered gardeners, burly builders and caring naturalists. We had lots of help from Mums and Dads and local businesses to bring this project together and a very big thank you goes to all who contributed – we couldn't have done it without you!

During the second half of the year we have had to focus on some serious fundraising. Being a charity, we do rely heavily on fund raising to meet everyday expenditure and we have been asking local people and companies for their help through monetary donations and gifts. A huge thank you to all for your generous donations – these really do make the difference between our existence and non-existence.

We held a hugely successful Sausage Sizzle Party in October at Martley Village Hall. Lots of children and parents joined us for fun and games including Apple Bobbing, Squidging in Jelly, Splat the Rat and many more. Plus there were some fantastic entries to the pumpkin competition. Great fun and an excellent boost to our funds.

Finally, look out for us on Monday 20 December 6pm onwards. Pre-school parents and toddlers will be carol singing for you around Martley and

Father Christmas has promised to join us. Please keep some change handy as we come knocking on doors to delight you with our carols. All proceeds to the upkeep of Pre-school.

Finally, everyone at Pre-school would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Janet Hall, Treasurer*

## ***Martley Village Hall Barn Dance***

Where can you go for just £6.00 for an evening which includes dancing lessons, live music and supper? The Martley Village Hall Barn Dance, held on Friday 15 October 2004, was just such an event and was an excellent evening.

Our thanks must go to the committee of organisers whose enthusiasm for the evening was very contagious.

The Wuster Waites provided the music

and Eve Evans (the Caller) and her husband gave support and guidance to those of us with two left feet. There's no escape from Eve's gentle persuasion to join in: I assure you its all done with humour and you don't feel picked on.

A Ploughman's Supper was served, followed by cakes. I certainly needed these refreshments to give me further energy to continue with the dancing – aerobics class and barn dancing have similar qualities!

Nellie Bradley did a fantastic job of selling raffle tickets and many people won lovely (donated) prizes – well done Nellie and Jack. The funds raised for the Village Hall were not tremendous and it would have been great to have seen more readers of The Villager joining in – it's certainly an evening with a difference.

There's going to be another Barn Dance at the end of January 2005 – I hope. I can recommend this evening of fun and laughs and a chance to meet other Villagers and their friends. So come on, dust off those cowboy boots, pull on those jeans and checked shirts and let's see a few more new faces at the next event – a fun evening is guaranteed!

*Annette Smith*



*Enjoying the barn Dance: (left to right) Bernard and June Hall, Neil and Eileen Stammers, George and Helen Coombey Jones*

## ***Home Guard Photo***

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the photograph of the Home Guard that used to hang in the bar of The Crown? I have asked various local people but it is a mystery no one seems able to solve. I am interested because my grandad, Harry Birch, was in the photo and we would love a copy. If you can help, I would love to hear from you.

*Karen Day*  
*Tel: 01886 888 956*

## ***Barn Dances Explained***

What is a barn dance? Sometimes known as a Hoedown, it is a mix of dances done in differing formations - lines, circles, squares, partner dances etc. The nature of most dances is that you dance with your own partner but progress to meet other couples with whom you repeat the dance or do a particular movement.

The caller is the person who is a cross between a dance instructor and Master of Ceremonies. His or her main duty is to 'call' the dances. They call a 'run-through' of the dance before the music starts up, then during the dance they 'call' the moves as a reminder to the dancers of what to do next. They know that most dancers have little or no experience of folk or country dances so it's important to keep moves simple, especially early on, and adapt the dances to suit the abilities of the dancers. The Caller also has a few tricks up his or her sleeve to 'persuade'

the more reluctant participants up on to the floor, in the full knowledge that some dancers will get things 'wrong'! The caller is the one to whom everyone looks for leadership qualities - and is there to be pointed at if they gets it wrong. Why not try and join us at the NEXT Village Hall Barn Dance?



AS

## ***Knightwick and District Trefoil Guild***

We met at the home of Sue Ganderton. The theme for our afternoon being "arts and crafts", members brought along a variety of crafts they had been working on. What a talented Guild we have! Mary demonstrated how to make paper stars and gift boxes. Janet and Gladys had knitted and crochet a cushion and knee blanket, Phyllis brought a pottery jug made at Sapey Kilns and Chris had done some appliqué and made a very complicated, but useful, shoulder bag. Sylvia brought a picture and card she had made from pressed flowers from her garden, Eileen's contribution was a beautiful doll, exquisite cushions and two patchwork quilts and Sue had made a tapestry fire screen and was half way through a piece of embroidery. We all felt very inspired by what we had seen and shared with each other. We were delighted to

welcome Sarah Bamber (nee Foot) to our meeting; Sarah lives in Lancaster, and was visiting during her half term holiday. Plans were made for our Christmas lunch in December, at The Oak, Broadwas-on-Teme.

*Geraldine Cooper.*

### ***Charity Clay Shoot***

On yet another beautiful, sunny autumn afternoon, we held, for the third year running, a charity shoot at Rodge Hill Farm Martley by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Caspar Tiarks. The shoot, held in aid of our Scanner Appeal and the Air Ambulance, attracted about 115 guns, all members of local shoots.

Barry Symmonds received the Andrew Williams Memorial Cup on behalf of the "Best of the Rest" team, The Burton Court Ladies a.k.a. "The Game Birds" won the Lady's Cup. Andrew Haywood was best on "Down the Line" and so won himself a bottle of whisky while Rob Davies was top gun. Ruby provided a delicious BBQ, Phil Smith auctioned a week's holiday in the Scottish highlands kindly donated by Wendy and George Haywood, a day's shoot donated by Don Taylor, a case of port donated by Chris Titshall and a Fireworks Night out donated by Dr Bywater.

We raised £2,800 for charity on the day and this was followed by a further donation of £500 towards the Scanner Appeal thus bringing the grand total up to £3,300, all raised on an

entertaining day out enjoyed by everyone present.

I would like to thank the committee, Don Taylor, Neville Jones, Trevor Keegan and Rob Bridgewater, as well as Beth for taking bookings and running the draw, Ruby for providing the BBQ, all the men who operated the traps, all the ladies who did the scoring, Andy and Mandy and everyone else who helped on the day as and cleared up afterwards. However, my greatest thanks go to all those who took part in this very successful rural event.

*Barbara Williams*

### ***Oil Syndicate***

**Please note that orders for heating oil must be with me by 7 December. Just for this month!!**

***Alan Colburn 01886 888575***

[alancolburn@aol.com](mailto:alancolburn@aol.com)

### ***Meals-on-Wheels***

Can you spare three hours a month, Tuesday or Thursday lunch time, to deliver meals-on-wheels in Martley area? If you can and would like to help, Carole Dunnett will be pleased to hear from you. Call 01886 821559 for more information.



### ***Comput@bus***

The Library Service is offering a free introductory computer course in their



mobile computer classroom. If you are interested in joining the course at Martley in 2005 contact Jane Cropp for details, 888398

### *Martley Spurs*

October started off well with all three of our teams winning their games. The Saturday Eleven beat Hallow 2-1 Steve Pritchett scoring both goals. The Sunday Premier side netted 4 to Arrow 2000's 1 and the Reserves overcame Worcester Juniors 3-1.

The 9th saw the Saturday Premier team scoring 5 to "All Blacks" 1 and their Sunday equivalent beat Blackpole 3-2. However, the Reserves fell to New Inn Claines.

The Saturday side lost their winning streak when Welland beat them 2-1 but our boys were one man short for most of the match. On the following morning The Premier Eleven were beaten by Trinity Sports, Mike Fellows pair were just not enough. The Reserves did save what looked like a whitewash weekend when Luke Willetts got the better of Pillar of Salt's goal keeper. The Saturday Eleven lost again the following week going down to Perrywood. Both Sunday fixtures on the 24th were postponed.

The last weekend of the month was taken up by Cup tie games. There was no game for the Saturday Premier side. The Sunday Premier Eleven, playing in the Worcestershire FA Cups Premier Round One, beat Arrow 2000 4-2 while the Reserves Cup match

against CMB Sports was postponed. The first league tables, published on 23 October, saw the Saturday Premier side in top position together with Hallow and Perrywood, The Sunday Premier lads in third place and the Reserves half way down their table.

*Beth Williams*

### *Martley Library*

On Saturday 30 October 2004 at 11am, Martley Library was officially opened by the Library Services Manager Cathy Evans.

The event was introduced by Jane McAllum, who paid tribute to the volunteers, Martley Parish Council and Tom Pearsall, Project Manager. Chairman of The Parish Council, Dave Cropp, welcomed everyone and thanked Vital Villages and Eveson Trust for the grants, without which the project would not have commenced.

The ribbon was cut and tea, coffee, wine and cakes were consumed and those present agreed that this facility is a great asset to Martley.

### *Welcome*

Welcome to Emma and Malcolm Clark who have recently come to live on Hillside.

#### **EDITOR WANTED**

**The Editor of The Villager regrets that she will be vacating this position in the very near future. If YOU could fulfil this VITAL role, call Michelle Higgins 01886888344 or Jim Sandison 01886 888339.**

## *Chantry News*

We are well into the school year now having just had the half-term break. A big welcome to Year 7 Debbie Pearson, Ann Carter and Nicola Tillen who joined up at the October meeting and AGM. The parents/grandparents etc of any pupil in any year of the school are always welcome.

### **Specialist School Bid**

The £50,000 funding needed to apply for the Specialist School Status bid was raised in time for the 8 October deadline and has now been submitted. An inspection visit is pending - a very encouraging sign, and it is hoped to hear a successful result within the next three months! We will keep you posted in the Chantry News column as well as through the schools newsletter. There are many events on the school calendar this year. In December: Christmas Concert 7 December, Talent Show 16 December. Times and venues will be given in the Chantry Newsletter. All pupils get a copy to take home, so if you never see a copy we suggest you put on protective clothing and bravely search the dark regions of your child's school bag!

Various fund-raising events are being put on throughout the year by the 'Friends'. A skittles night is being arranged for February and a Quiz night and Flower Demonstration are also being planned to follow. Dates to be confirmed.

*IW*

## *The Crown at Martley Re-opens*

Sunday 14 November saw the long-awaited re-opening of Martley's central pub, now re-named The Crown at Martley.

With a large bar area and sparkling new restaurant seating 140 people, the pub, under the management of Richard Everton, hopes to be central to village life. There is space for a marquee for special functions and Richard plans to be able to expand outdoors in the coming summer and provide a family area and maybe even barbeques.

The neutral-toned, contemporary décor is enhanced by work by Droitwich artist Robin Jackson.

The new manager and his staff welcomed guests to the opening with wine and canapés, finishing the opening celebrations, and marking the beginning of trading, with fireworks.

*Michelle Higgins*



### **This month in Martley, 100 years ago**

The schoolmaster wrote that 'a very bad cough' was spreading amongst the children - three days later said 'coughs have increased and are most distressing'. School closed for Xmas holidays on 23<sup>rd</sup> for two weeks.



# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford



WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

## *Special Services for Christmas*

**12 December 10am.** All age service Christingle. Children do come and bring your parents to this special service.

**19 December 4pm.** Carols by candlelight. Another special service to get you in the right mood for Christmas.

Christmas Eve 10pm. Christmas Holy Communion with carols in a candlelit church.

**26 December 10.30am.** Holy Communion.

## *Flower Rota*

5 December Advent – no flowers

12 December Advent – no flowers

19 December Christmas decorations

24 December Christmas decorations

## *Baptism*

Katherine Sides, daughter of Mr & Mrs Jonathon Sides, baptised in St Laurence's Church, Wichenford and welcomed into the family of God by her own family, friends and members of the congregation.



Janet Andrews  
01886 888303  
Sheila Richards  
01886 888378

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## *Henry Waterson Wood*

Henry died suddenly at his home aged 85; we send our deepest sympathy to his family and to his many friends. He lived most of his life in Broadheath, where his father was a farmer. He attended the local school and then went on to the Kings School. From school he joined the department store known as Symes, then Bobby's and later Debenhams. During the war, he served in the army and later he rejoined is old firm, eventually becoming manager.

Henry was a keen horseman and rode with the Worcestershire Hunt. On retirement, he moved to his home in Wichenford where he enjoyed his garden and visiting and entertaining his many friends.

Messages have been received from former colleagues living in California expressing their sadness and say how they remember Henry for his great sense of humour and the very happy times they spent working together.

## ***Malcolm Donald Perkins***

The large number of people attending Malcolm's funeral was a tribute to him and expressed the affection and respect in which he was held. Malcolm was born at Broadgreen and moved to Brownscroft when he was one. On leaving school, he trained and qualified as an electrician. He served with the RAF whilst doing his National Service; he and Ivy married and made their home at Brownscroft where Malcolm farmed, his main enterprises being poultry, pigs, sheep and some cattle. He was well known for his excellent stock and won many prizes, most recently his Texel sheep was the champion animal at Worcester Market Show and Sale. He was a keen hunt supporter and a great lover of the countryside that he knew so well.

We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Ivy and to all the family. Malcolm will be sadly missed by his many friends.

### ***Thank You***

Ivy extends her thanks for all the kindness shown to her and is grateful for the transport to visit Malcolm. The collection in his memory amounted to £579 which will be donated to the church and to the Diabetic Trust.

### ***Wichenford 100 Club***

October winner: No. 127. Sue Vale won £110 (for the second time!!). Congratulations to Sue.

## ***Millennium Green Inspection & Tidying Rota***

December: Eric Delahay.



### ***Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council***

An Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 27 September 2004 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford. Councillor Britten-Long chaired the meeting

#### **Reports**

District and County Councillor Reports.

The County Councillor did not attend and no report was given. District Councillor Williams reported that they're all challenging efforts into CPA (an OFSTED-type inspection) and the results will be known in a few weeks time. The Local Plan first deposit has been approved with a few slight amendments, no settlement boundaries are to be extended. The second deposit is now due.

#### **Matters Arising**

Refuse Lorries: The smaller caged vehicle is now collecting from Highfields Lane. A meeting was set up with the highways department on Kingsgreen. We were advised that it would be unlikely that a speed

restriction could be enforced, but it may be possible to extend it behind the high school. We could get a blue advisory notice saying "Single track lane - no passing".

Lengthsman Scheme: The Clerk has spoken to Mr Clay, who is permitted to be self-employed. He will also be asked to get his own Public Liability Insurance. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Clay offering him the position on a three-month trial basis and send a copy of the letter from the insurance company regarding Public Liability. The Clerk was asked to speak to the Highways Department to find out when the next training session is and to do a draft contract for services.

Start-up grant: The sum of £900.00 has been received from the County Council for the Parish Path Partnership Scheme. The Pathfinders wish to purchase a brushwood strimmer, gloves, long-handled loppers, visor, ear defenders, brush saw, branch saw, first aid kits and large definitive maps. The Clerk was asked to speak to Martley parish on this matter. Councillors were reminded that three quotes were needed for any expenditure over £100.00.

Kings Green: A meeting was held and a compromise agreed. The grass is to stay long until it has been cut for hay. If parishioners with children want to cut it for them to play on, then there is no objection providing it is no cost to the Parish Council.

#### Planning

4 Abingdon Bungalow. This application is going to appeal. The clerk was asked to write to the planning inspectorate to make representations against this proposal. Land adjacent to Meadow view. This appeal has been allowed. 4 Kenswick Manor. Several letters of objection were received from residents and this application has now been withdrawn. Applications received for comment since the last meeting. Erection of garage at Barn A, Cockshoot Farm. A letter of objection was read out to councillors. The parish council did a site visit prior to the meeting. The parish council are aware of the neighbours objections and feel the overall dimensions are far to large. They would also like it to be repositioned. Erection of garage building. The Tallet, Cockshoot Farm. The parish council has no objection to this application.

Decisions made by MHDC: Erect wooden gates to provide an enclosed driveway at Kedges Farm, Wichenford, has been granted. New access to highway, stone driveway leading to parking area at Kenswick Mill, Lower Broadheath has been granted. Construction of stable and barn at Kenswick Manor Lodge (Amended, retrospective plans) has been passed. Proposed 2 storey side/rear extension, repositioned conservatory at Sedalia, Rosses Lane, has been passed. Internal alterations to provide second floor bedroom and bathroom at Woodpeckers Kedges

Farm, has been granted. New extension to form conservatory and internal alterations at The Elms, Frenchlands Lane, has been granted.. Addition of first floor window at Birchcroft, Ockeridge has been passed.

#### Finance

The income and expenditure account were studied and it was resolved that they should be adopted by this Parish Council. £1,917.84 has been spent since April 2004. The Council approved three cheques for payment and signature to the sum of £122.70. It was resolved that any parish councillor wanting reimbursement should invoice the clerk.

#### Correspondence

For decision by the Parish Council: The information from MHDC re: Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places does not really apply to us. MHDC Draft Licensing Policy. (The clerk to complete). Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator in Kenswick. (Cllr Wetherall to draft a letter to all residents in Kenswick.)

For information only: All correspondence listed on the agenda has been circulated to councillors to read and comment on if they wish. Correspondence received after the agenda was written: Vandal-resistant signs and public notice boards. Sir Michael Spicer personal and private interviews.

#### Councillors Reports

It was reported that the pavement

behind the garages at Queens Way are obstructed with brambles from the hedgerow. The Clerk was requested to find out if this belonged to Elgar Housing or the Highways authority. Trail riders rode down Guises Lane despite the temporary closure notice, their numbers were reported to the police and the trail riders fellowship, who will act on the information. It was reported that Elm Common is being used as a dumping ground. It was suggested that it could be dangerous now that people have a right to roam. The chairman agreed to sort it out. Parishioners have reported that Pencroft are now using Poplar Road after being told not to use Venn Lane. It was agreed to continue this subject on the agenda for the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact Avebury Brewery to find out their intentions are for the Masons Arms Public House. It was also reported that ragwort is growing in the field belonging to the pub.

#### Date and Venue of Next Meeting

13 December 2004 at 7.30pm

24 January 2005 at 7.30pm

All in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

*Shirley Sanders Clerk to the Council*  
(01886 888302)

### ***Happy Christmas***

***The Villager wishes a happy Christmas to all its readers—  
wherever they may be!***

# Christmas Events in Wichenford

*Don't miss them!*



**Christmas Prize Bingo.** Friday 3  
December 7pm eyes down 7.45pm,  
to be held at the Memorial Hall.  
Profit will go to Charlotte's Trust.



## **Christmas Whist Drive**

Friday 10 December  
7.30 for 8pm  
at the Memorial Hall  
This is a special  
Christmas Whist Drive  
with many splendid  
prizes.

## **Day Centre Christmas Bazaar**

Monday 6 December  
2pm  
at the Nora Parsons  
Day Centre  
Many choice items for sale  
at reasonable prices  
- also super raffle.





## Nostalgia For Christmas Past

“Christmas is coming the goose is getting fat, please to put a penny in the old man's hat” - the words of a song we sang as children, but I have no idea who the old man referred to was. It came into my head the other day and took me back to my childhood Christmases. There was none of today's hype which seems to start earlier with every passing year. Lights and decorations, often in abundance, are put up after the August bank holiday with shops, garden centres and even private houses all vying with each other to be the first to get their Christmas tree up and the lights on.

When I was a child, Christmas lasted just a few days. Of course Christmas puddings, mince meat and the cake were made in the autumn - actually home made - not bought. Poultry was plucked (goose, duck or capon - there were few turkeys in the early 1940s) a few days before the great day. 23 December was dedicated to cooking: pastry, jellies, trifles and stuffings were produced, all the children helped and it was 'God help you' if you nicked anything!

Christmas Eve was a joyous day, presents were wrapped up in any available recycled paper, the tree was decorated in the afternoon while listening to the service of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Cambridge on the “wireless” (no radio then and TV was invented, but certainly not available) paper decorations were made and strung around the sitting room. Of course, war was on and so all real glass baubles and paper chains, dull-looking tinsel and, believe it or not, real candles in metal clip holders (there are laws against such things these days). These decorations were all bought before the war started and were lovingly wrapped and stored away from year to year.

Christmas morning began early, us children were awake sometime in the middle of the night to see what was in our stockings, pillow cases for us, which contained some exotic fruit such as oranges and tangerines! (these were only available at that time of year), new socks, the odd pencil case or fountain pen, no expensive gadgets to be bought on the yet unheard of credit card.

Christmas morning meant church. There were no bells ringing or Midnight Mass in the silent blackout of wartime Britain. Church was followed by the great feast which had to be over and cleared away by three o'clock when we all sat around to listen to the King's broadcast to the Nation. After that, light-heartedness set in again as Mum doled out our presents, one at a time so that each one of us could see what the others had got. The evening was always spent eating what few sweets and chocolates our meagre ration cards had allowed and drinking home made wine while playing New Market. We only played this at Christmas





and Dad had quietly saved up all his halfpennies for us to bet with. Boxing Day was a really quiet affair, Dad and the boys went shooting or following the hunt, if one was held locally, and everyone else sat around and ate the left-overs. Christmas had lasted just about three days not three months and everyone was happily sated and no one was fed up with the hype and glad it was all over.

*Beth Williams*



## *Christmas Events*



### **Valentines Ladies Choir**

at St Mary's Church, Abberley  
7.30pm Saturday 11 December

£5 adults

£2.50 children under 16

*Includes punch and a mince pie*

Tickets: Mrs Ballard 01299

896238

*In aid of the Church Restoration  
Fund*

### **Christmas Fayre**

in aid of

**Acorns Children's Hospice  
on Sat 4th December  
at Martley Memorial Hall  
2-4pm**

**Nearly New Clothes Plants  
Bric a Brac Cakes  
Toys Tombola**

***We welcome any donations  
for any stall (we can collect)  
Tel:01886 888956***



### **Martley Royal British Legion Annual Christmas Coffee Morning**

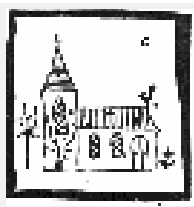
10.30am Saturday 11 December  
at Heaton House  
Gift Stalls etc.

Entrance 50p includes Tea,  
Coffee and Mince Pie

*In aid of MRBL Christmas Parcels*

### ***Christmas Draw***

The Spurs annual Christmas Draw with a first prize of £100.00 will take place on Sunday 19 December Get your tickets from any member of the Club and keep your eyes open for posters indicating the time and venue.



# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

What do you want for Christmas? A question we have either asked or been asked during the last month or so, or maybe have yet to be asked.

Of course, the answer will be very different depending upon to whom you ask the question. A child will probably have a very good idea what they would like and it may be a long list that has already been sent to Santa. Adults are not always so clear, or are they? Maybe we would rather not ask and get the obligatory socks and handkerchiefs, for the men or perfume and chocolates for the ladies. Of course, we live in such a material society that there is so much we could choose from, the only restrictions seem to be money and even that doesn't stop us overspending sometimes. But what do we really want for Christmas?

For many, I know, Christmas is not a time of joy and peace and family get-togethers. You may be alone, you may face a difficult time ahead due to ill health or changing circumstances, you may not be at peace with yourself or others. It all seems so stressful! So the question of what you want for Christmas, as far as material gifts are concerned, is irrelevant.

Yet Christmas is about one who has come amongst us to be with us whatever we may go through, whoever we are. Jesus the name given to him at his birth also had another name given to him by the prophets, Emmanuel, which means, God with us. You may not always realise it but God is with you. So if there is something you want him to be involved with, this Christmas or in the year to come, just ask, and see if his promise to us is true, that he is Emmanuel, God with us.

If you are facing difficulties in any way and you think that I or my colleagues, Jennifer and Robert, may be able to help you with, don't hesitate to contact us.

Whatever you may want for Christmas, may I wish you God's Christmas blessing of 'Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all'.

*Rev David Sherwin*





## *Emmanuel - God with us*

Two services at Heaton House to celebrate the Christmas Season: a time of Advent and Christmas Carols on Wednesday 8 December and a short Communion Service with Carols on Wednesday 22 December, both at 10.15am in the lounge.

Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

## *Carols at The Admiral Rodney*

At 9pm on Thursday 23 December, Revd David Sherwin will lead the singing of carols and Christmas songs at The Admiral Rodney.



## *Carols at Heaton House*

Come along and join in with the carol singing at Heaton House on Monday 20 December at 7pm



<b>5 December Advent 2</b>	
Wichenford	9.30am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Christingle Service
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Knightwick	8am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	6.30pm Evensong
<b>12 December Advent 3</b>	
Wichenford	10.0am Christingle Service
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	6.30pm Carol Service
Cotheridge	8am Holy Communion
<b>19 December Advent 4</b>	
Wichenford	4pm Carol Service
Martley	8am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Carol Service
Broadwas	11am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	9am Matins and Carols
Knightwick	3pm Carol Service
<b>24 December Christmas Eve</b>	
Wichenford	10pm Holy Communion
Martley	11.30pm Holy Communion
Broadwas	5pm Crib Service; 11.30pm Holy Communion
<b>25 December Christmas Day</b>	
Cotheridge	9am holy Communion with Carols
Martley	11am Family Worship
<b>26 December St Stephen's Day</b>	
Martley	10.30am Holy Communion

# In the Kitchen



## Port and Prune Fool

*A good way of using up any left over port! Don't dismiss this because of the prunes—they can make a good dessert, honestly!*

284 ml (10fl oz) double cream  
1 x 439g can prunes, stoned  
4 tablespoons port  
50g (2oz) soft brown sugar  
grated nutmeg  
chopped walnuts to decorate

1. Chop the prunes.
2. Whip the cream until stiff.
3. Fold the port and prunes into the cream and add sugar and nutmeg to taste.
4. Spoon the mixture into individual glasses and chill. Decorate with the nuts before serving

You could also use no-soak prunes and soak them in the port for a couple of hours or so before making the fool.



# In the Garden



## Garden Tips for December

December, the month to study the seed catalogues and to prepare for next year by digging in the compost, checking the lime content of the soil (with a simple kit that can be obtained from the garden centres), renewing fences and posts and generally tidying up ready for Spring.

The rhubarb needs a covering of compost, straw or a good dressing of manure. Take cuttings of hardwood plants such as gooseberries, black, red and white currants; weigela, spirea, lonicera, forsythia and cotoneaster. To do this, open up a narrow channel in the soil, fill with coarse sand and insert cuttings, six to eight inches, leave half of the length above ground. Split up and transplant herbaceous plants. Time to prune apple trees and tidy up damson and plum trees. Brassicas will need some protection from the pigeons looking for an easy meal. Check apples, potatoes, carrots etc that are put in store for rot and damage by vermin. Plant out roses, conifers and hedging plants.

*Jack Bradley*

## *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	President—Pat Crook 01886 888550
Martley & Dist Hort. Soc.	Mrs J O'Leary—01886 888253
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