

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 16 No. 7

December 2006

Editor: Andrew Chilvers (01905 641986)

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

Advertising: Neil Stammers (01886 888513)

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

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

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of The Villager. The Villager cannot be held responsible for any goods or services advertised in the magazine

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers meet Church car park

2nd Sunday in the month:

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

Mondays

1st Monday in the month:

Martley Parish Council 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing
7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

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

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

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

Martley & District Horticultural Society: last Thursday in the month
7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall

Other events:

Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

Telephone Service: Mon & Tue 10am—
3pm Thu 10am— 7.30pm **Great Witley**
& Knightwick Surgeries: Weds 10am -
4pm - by appt. 01584 810860

See Church Words for details of services

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

See the Diary page on
www.martley.org.uk for a complete listing
of all forthcoming events (that the Diary
page Editor knows about)

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



December folklore

December used to be the 10th month of the Roman year, and it gets its name from the word ‘decem’, which means 10. The Anglo-Saxons called it ‘Winter monath’ or ‘Yule monath’ because of the custom of burning the yule log around this time. After the Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity they called it ‘Heligh monath’ or holy month.

December is very much associated with Christmas and a lot of December customs and traditions have therefore been swallowed up by the festival. Christmas, the mass of Christ, is held on 25 December and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago. At the beginning of December,

the season of Advent starts. The word advent means ‘coming’, and as its name suggests it is a time of preparation for the coming feast of Christmas. The word Christmas comes from the Old English name ‘Cristes Maesse’ – Christ’s Mass – and is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The first recorded observance occurred in Rome in AD360, but it wasn’t until AD440 that the Christian Church fixed a celebration date of 25 December.

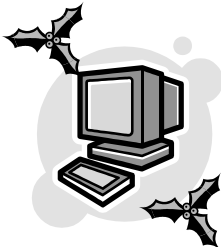
Weather-lore and Christmas facts

A mild December precedes a cold snap later in the winter: “A green December fills the graveyard.”

- “A clear star-filled sky on Christmas Eve will bring good crops in the summer.”
- Did you know that the abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is the letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ’s name in the Greek alphabet.
- Christmas has been celebrated

in Britain for 1,500 years. According to legend, King Arthur made merry in York in 521 surrounded by “minstrels, gleemen, harpers, pipe-players, jugglers and dancers”.

- The seeds of European mistletoe plants germinate only after being digested and passed by birds. The berry of mistletoe plants is a favourite treat of the mistle thrush.
- The Silver Branch of Celtic mythology, mistletoe, cut from oak trees is thought to have healing powers and a token of entrance into the Immortal World. In Welsh it is druidh his - Druid's Weed.



Christmas Online

Internet shopping has become increasingly popular, allowing consumers to

compare prices, avoid queues and save petrol. Never is this more useful than at Christmas.

Now, your online shopping can do even more. With absolutely no extra cost to you and with just an extra click of the mouse, your internet purchases can raise vital funds for your local pre-school.

If you shop online at John Lewis, Mothercare, ELC, HMV, Field & Trek, Goldsmiths, Waterstones,

Amazon, Adams, Thorntons, Play.com and many other name brand stores, they will donate a percentage of your purchase to Martley & District Pre-School.

So, before you shop on the web this Christmas (and all year round too!), click onto www.buy.at/martleypreschool and select your shop from there. That's all you have to do. A very easy way to give an extra gift this Christmas!

Sue Gibbins



Martley Ramblers

There is no walk this month as the afternoons can be dark and dismal. Following the AGM last month, the programme for 2007 has been drawn up, so watch this space for details of next month's walk. Our ages range from under 1 yr to whatever, so please feel free to join us at the starting point at the Church car park.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

Autumn has been lengthy, colourful and much enjoyed with still plenty of fruit, nuts and berries for the wild life. Foraging foxes and badgers continue to interrupt the sleep of the dog. Fieldfares usually flock in large numbers to help them clear the fallen apples, but there seems to be some doubt as to whether, due to global warming,



they will bother to call this year. Explosions and bright flashes woke some inhabitants on a recent Sunday morning. It was first suspected to be an early firework display but was only a tree branch short circuiting a transformer.

Perhaps the message re litter in the lay-by is beginning to take effect. No recoverable salvage in October and the Highway men left it tidy; it was not quite such good news when the lane was blocked by several of their large equipment vehicles. Meanwhile, at the same time a delivery lorry with a load of slabs dropped into a ditch for several hours. The subsequent drop of nearly half a metre at the side of the tarmac should help to collect rainwater when the drains get blocked.

PS: Rats are proliferating. Is there any entrepreneur out there willing to set up a "Rent a cat" scheme?

Kate King

Martley & District Horticultural Society

At our October meeting Ray Ellis (vice Chairman) paid tribute to Jack Bradley who sadly died on 17 October. Jack will be greatly missed by us all. He had been a founder member of the Society and was a lovely man and a country gentleman – a person with whom we knew where we were. Jack had written the garden notes in *The Villager* for some years and had a great knowledge of horticulture that he

put to good use. We wish Nellie and the family all the best for the future.

Our speaker on this occasion was former teacher David Worthington, his subject being 'Water in the Garden' on which he is an expert. David is a landscaper and designer of gardens. He illustrated his talk with slides, describing the many and varied ways of enjoying water from just a bird bath or a half barrel, to swimming pools and lakes, with rocks, waterfalls, cascades and fountains – and, of course, fish. Even creating a water feature for the blind was mentioned.

He showed several prize winning designs at The Chelsea Flower Show, and told us of plants for pools and bog gardens and the wild life these would attract. David spoke of reflections, also of how waterside plants flourish in summer, hiding the water until the cold months set in. He gave advice on cleaning ponds etc and problems such as herons.

He also pointed out the dangers for small children and hedgehogs.

The Society is now 30 years old and our Birthday/Reunion Party on 30 November will be reported in January's issue. The Christmas Dinner is on 8 December at the Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm.

Garden Notes

December is the month for dropping hints about 'garden' presents (anything from trugs to trees!), studying garden books and seed catalogues; looking at your old photos from years ago (why did that rose die?), and de-

ciding to turn out the shed on Saturday if it's not snowing. Perhaps organising a load of manure while it's frosty. You will also get lovely and warm with all that digging!

Jobs to do – prune fruit trees and bushes, grape vines etc. Remove dead and decaying leaves from plants in frames.

Take chrysanthemum cuttings. Orchid *coelogyne cristata* thrives in a cool greenhouse and will soon come into flower. Clivia is a valuable indoor green plant; keep its pot slightly moist and its leaves sponged.

Earth up round the base of HT roses 3 or 4 inches to protect from frost and rocking. Standard roses used to have bracken or straw thrust among their branches as protection in years gone by.

Examine all stored fruit and root crops. Apply lime to the ground if needed. Prepare roots of rhubarb, sea-kale and cardoon for forcing. Feed the birds – you will need them to keep down pests. Plan your 2007 vegetable garden with a glass of mulled wine.

Tina Steele

Martley's past

Trials of a Schoolmistress, 1885

3 July – Rev JP Hastings came into school and looked at the Arithmetic of 1st class; he rewarded those girls who had their sums right. Standard V have this week begun 'Bills'. Standard IV compound multiplication. Standard III long division.

6 July – Rev JP Hastings came in

school this morning and brought some new slates.

9 July – Rev JP Hastings came in school with Miss E Hastings from Malvern. He gave 1/- each to those children who passed well at the recent Government Examination.

17 July – Many children have been absent the last few days, engaged in pea-picking and fruit gathering.

25 July – Summary of the Report of HM Inspector. "The order on the whole is good. The teaching shows fair Spelling and Composition and very fair Writing; but very weak Arithmetic and unequal Grammar. The Infants are fairly taught and the Sewing is credible. The teaching power does not seem sufficient for the work to be done, viz. two departments and Sewing. One inexperienced mistress is scarcely enough".

29 July – Sixty-two children present – some are still employed in currant and pea-picking.

21 August – Dismissed the children today at 3.30 for their harvest holiday.

5 October – Re-opened school after six weeks holiday. Fifty-eight children present. (Next day there were 67 present!)

A L Boon

Pensax Thrift Shop

Pensax Thrift Shop closes for the winter months on Wednesday 6th December and re-opens on Wednesday 7th





March 2007. The volunteer helpers would like to wish all customers a very happy Christmas, and look forward to seeing everyone again in March.

Central Stores and Garage— 25th Anniversary

In December 1981 Jill and Alan Gosling came to Martley from Tipton having acquired the Central Garage from Em Fryer. It was a time of change in the rural scene. Out of town supermarkets were attracting customers from a wide area, forcing the closure of many village stores and Post Offices, especially where the two were combined. Villagers lost not only the amenity of the shop, but also the place where people met and talked. Other changes affecting villages adversely were the closure of some village schools and the loss of the village policeman.

That Martley has largely escaped this fate was due to the influx of new blood with the creation of St Peter's Estate on the site of the old Martley Union Workhouse. This regenerated the local community and kept the village at a viable size. Alan and Jill Gosling recognised the need for a new approach to rural retailing. They were already selling a range of hardware and car accessories alongside the garage business. They decided to build a new village shop in November 1993, extending it in 1996.

Helen McHugh (nee Gosling) took

over the running of the shop. She was always open to new ideas, and if a line was suggested she was pleased to try it to see if there was sufficient demand. In this way the business grew and was able to provide for a wide range of needs including offering a supply of locally sourced fresh vegetables.

And what of Alan? He can still be found under a car or deeply immersed in its innards as the team at the Central Garage continue to service our vehicles and sort out any knotty problems, giving Martley motorists peace of mind and value for money. Long may they continue.



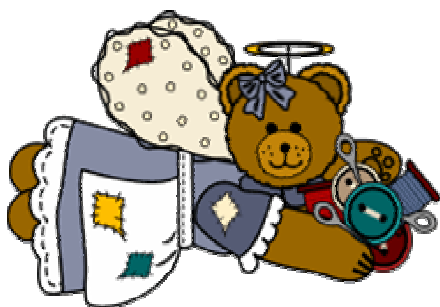
Martley Spurs

October was quite a good month for our teams; the last Saturday in Sep-

tember saw our boys thrash Badsey United Reserves 10-1 in the Worcester FA Junior Cup round one. This was a great game in which Adam Beresford netted four times and Dean Drinkwater got a pair. On Sunday 1 October the Premier side beat Powick by 3 goals to 2, but the Reserves lost to Droitwich Spa. Another positive result came on Saturday 7 October when the Premier eleven won their home game against Bedwardine through a Luke Willetts' hat-trick. More goals came the next morning when the Premier side overcame AFC Mazak 5-0, but the Reserves lost to Worcester Juniors.

There was no fixture on the 14th for the Saturday team, but both sides played on the 15th, the Premier eleven drew 3-3 with Blackpole and the Reserves won their game against Malvern Radar, the only goal being scored by Joe Baker. 21 October saw the Saturday Premier boys beat Hallow

WMC, but their Sunday equivalent only managed to draw two all with Perrywood. The final weekend of October was pretty disastrous with several refs' decisions going



Pre-School Snippets

The children have been busy enjoying the autumn season that arrived a little later than usual this year! The children learned about the different leaves through Leaf Snap, using real laminated leaves which they had collected. The theme for November is mini-beasts, including stories such as 'The Old Woman who Swallowed a Fly' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' December sees a variety of Christmas activities, culminating in a Christmas party and a visit from Santa.

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Gift Fair which was held on December 2nd from 1-4pm. It was a shopping extravaganza and the mulled wine and mince pies went down a treat!

We would also like to thank the

Martley Old Grammar School Foundation, which donated £240 to the Pre School. This was donated in aid of a new fence for the boundary of the garden. Many thanks.

If you have any old mobile phones lurking in your drawers, please donate them to the Pre-School. There are collection points at Pre-School, Central Stores, Martley Post Office and Great Witley Surgery.

Congratulations Corner: A huge well done to Kath Smith, our manager, who has just graduated from her foundation degree in Early Years Education. We are proud to boast that Pre-School has a graduate leader. Also, birthday wishes to Oakley Roberts who turns 4 this month and to Jonah Kielty-Collins who turns 3. We hope you both enjoy your special days!

The Pre-School accepts children from the age of 2 (nappies no problem). If you are interested in a place for your child, call the Pre-School on 01886 889127. Don't forget that we also offer Breakfast & After-School clubs too (ages 2 to 13).

Sue Gibbins

In memoriam—Arthur John Bradley [Jack]

1921-2006



A light went out in Martley the day Arthur John Bradley, known as “Jack” to his friends and family, suddenly passed away.

Sounds strange really, you seem to think that people like Jack will live forever, but it is not so.

Born in Martley 85 years ago, Jack attended the local school where Mr Goring was headmaster; he got involved with Village life at an early age. When he was 14 he became a member of the Village Hall Working Men’s Club. I found a report from the Memorial Hall committee dated 27 Feb’ 1947 which shows he was already the Chairman of the Air Rifle section - talking of which, I read some notes written by Mr Goring dating back to late 1937 ‘Jack scored 18 in the Lord Ednam cup (air gun shooting) resulting in the first win of the season for Martley’.

He continued to serve the Village hall up until he died, by which time he was President. He was a very busy man, member of the Recreation Association, horticultural Society, and a Parish Councillor for many years etc.

I best remember Jack at our Village show meetings; we used to tease him, suggesting that we erect tents on the cricket pitch! But he took it all in good spirit.

He was also a great sportsman, particularly keen on football and cricket and in later years he founded the bowls club.

Jack began his working life in farming as a plough boy for Colonel Nash at the Noak, and ended up as a market gardener, a job he loved so much; we will miss Jack’s regular tips and advice on gardening in the Villager.

Jack was a family man, he married his beloved Nellie some 61 years ago, and they have two children Helen and David, also two lovely granddaughters, Amanda and Lindsey.

Jack’s funeral took place at St. Peters Church on the 23 October, the church was packed, all the seats were taken up, including the choir seats and altar rail. It was not a sombre occasion, but a celebration of Jack’s life. The service was officiated by Rev. David Sherwin who gave a light-hearted and warm tribute to Jack.

Jack will be greatly missed by family, friends and the entire village of Martley. God bless you Jack.

Cllr Barbara Williams

The Villager has received several obituaries as well as other heartfelt messages of condolences. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to publish all of them, but I’m sure Jack’s family would like to thank you all for your kind words and thoughts.

against them. On Saturday the Premier side played British Olympic Youth in the Worcestershire FA Cups round two and lost 5-4 on penalties after extra time. The Sunday team also lost after extra time in the Premier Cup match against Perrywood, the final result being 4-2.

The Club wishes to thank Roy Oakey for his kind donation of the tea and disposable cups after every match and Mike Morris for financing the names and numbers stencils on the new Sunday Premier side's kit.



Annual Christmas Draw

The Club will be holding their grand Christmas draw at The Crown on Sunday 17 December. First prize will be £100 followed by the usual bottles and Christmas fare. Tickets

are available from all committee and Club members who wish all of you a very merry Christmas.

Beth Williams

Re: my thank you email to Nevel Jones & Barbara Williams you kindly printed in the november Villager. Unfortunately you did not print who it was from, ie myself, Gordon Griffiths chairman of Martley Spurs FC. I would appreciate if you could mention this in next month's Villager.

*Gordon Griffiths
Chairman*

Martley WI

7.30pm Heaton House,
Wednesday 13 December

The AGM is over, the programme for 2007 has been planned, so now it is full steam ahead for the coming year. Those members who performed at the Harvest Supper are still awaiting professional offers, which appear to be slow in coming. Sheila Craker is busy visiting local eating places to find the best venue for our annual dinner in the New Year. Don't forget the diet, Sheila.

This month will be Music Hall Entertainment by Dentith and Price. "Oh yes it will, Oh no it won't". The competition is for the most outlandish charity shop outfit. Personally speaking, your correspondent has enough discarded, ancient clothes in the back of her wardrobe to dress all the WI. Visitors and possible new members are always welcome, so come along for some pre-Christmas fun.

Kate King

Ginger bath

Ginger stimulates and invigorates the circulation, is warming in cold weather, clears the sinuses and has a spicy, exotic aroma. Grate a piece of fresh ginger and put into a muslin or cotton bag. Dangle the bag under the running hot tap for a truly refreshing bath-time treat.

Oxfordshire Federation





Martley WI report for the year

November 2005 to October 2006.

In November 2005, Gwynneth Darby was elected as our new President with seven other members making up a committee of 8.

Our first meeting was held in the lovely home of Joy and Reg Snow as Sport Martley was having alterations made. The following month we held our Christmas meeting in the Village Hall. The decision was then made to hold our meetings in future in the bright and comfortable room at Heaton House.

There was a varied programme of speakers throughout the year, the subjects being "An Introduction to Sign Language", talks on "Kings, Queens and Mistresses", "Jam as a Craft", a behind the scenes insight on running a jam stall and the curious remarks overheard at these occasions. "Shopping over 200 years", the story of Kays of Worcester, "History of Teddy Bears", a highly amusing talk on "From Tights to Trousers" from a one-time young policewoman. October was a talk on "Running a Nursery", (the gardening kind).

Our annual dinner this year was held at the Admiral Rodney in March, also a skittle evening in July. This year our June Garden meeting included our annual Fun Auction, a quiz, competitions and splendid refreshments pro-

vided by members.

During the year, members provided a cake and bric-a-brac stall at the Annual Martley Horticultural Show and Fete, they also provided a cake stall at the Christmas Fair in aid of the Village Hall. Martley again took part in the Co-operative entry at the WI County Spring Rally, and although they did not come top, they did very well with Sheila Craker coming second in the special category for a tactile book. Sheila also won this year's special competition for Martley's own Millennium plate.

This year Clifton-upon-Teme represented Martley at the National AGM in Cardiff in June. We continue to correspond by e-mail with our link Institute in Tarrandale, New Zealand. Various members attended the Lucy Hingley Lecture on "Diabetes" a New Presidents' Day and the National WI Denman College. During the year two members have obtained their Certificates of Hygiene, which is now obligatory for all WI's. Kate King provided a Martley WI display at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Chris Campbell won this year's Denman College Bursary.

On a lighter note several members, often accompanied by husbands or friends, attended a Dawn Chorus Walk in May at Pewcroft Farm, followed by one of the largest breakfasts ever seen, a Group trip to the Birmingham Canals, and a walk on Bringsty Common followed by tea at Warren Farm, Brockhampton, in June. Members took part in the County Quiz in February,

and were invited by Leigh & Bransford WI to a talk given by Philip Serrell, the Auctioneer. In October, several members presented a short Old Time Musical act ably put together by Harry King, for the Martley Harvest Supper. Last, but by no means least, one of our members, Chris Smith, made a sponsored sky dive.

We are now looking forward to another year of good speakers, happy social events and good company. And, don't forget, we are very happy to welcome any newcomers to the joys of the Women's Institute!

Mary Kipping, Secretary

House fire

The Sopers and the Piggotts want to thank the many people who have given us support and help during and after the recent house fire; particularly the people in Berrow Green who, on Monday night, took us into their homes, gave us tea, warm clothes and even bed and breakfast. We cannot express how grateful we are for this help and for the emotional support we have received from the community.

Vanessa Piggott

Teme Valley Views

Finding childcare for young children can be a challenge in a rural area. Unlike in towns, we are not inundated with full-day care nurseries and, therefore, many of us rely on the fantastic services provided by childminders. Registered childminders are profes-

sional day carers who work in their own homes to provide care and education for other people's children in a family setting. Although finding a childminder in the Teme Valley can be difficult, the Family Information Service (FIS) keeps an up-to-date record of all childminders who have vacancies, so if you need help contact them on 01905 790560.

Childminding gives you the chance to work from home doing a really worthwhile job; however, before starting you need to be registered. During registration an Ofsted inspector will visit you to make sure you're suitable to care for children and to check that your home is a safe and friendly place. You will also need to complete a first-aid course and introductory training. If you think this may be for you, the CIS can provide more information so contact them on the number above.

The Teme Valley Children's Centre organises a monthly Childminder Support Group so local childminders can meet and share good practice. If you are a childminder and would like to join the Group, please contact the TVCC.

Don't forget about the Christmas Stay and Play session on 7th December at Clifton-upon-Teme Village Hall.

To receive a copy of our free monthly newsletter 'Teme Valley Views' please contact the TVCC on 01886 812982.





Martley Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting,
November 6.

Present: Cllr. Mr. D.
Cropp, Cllr. Mr. G.
Taylor, Cllr. Mrs. D.

Goodyear, Cllr. Mr. J. Slough, Cllr.
Mrs. M. Randall, Cllr. Mr. G. Coom-
bey-Jones, Cllr. Mr. M. Nott, Cllr. Mr.
R. McHugh

In Attendance: Mr. T. Pearsall (Clerk
to The Parish Council), 7 members of
the public.

The Chairman asked all present to
stand in silence and remember Jack
Bradley, who died recently.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

The Chairman invited all present to
ask questions or make statements
about Parish business, the following
points were raised:

A question was asked about the me-
morial seat planned for installation
near the notice board. The Clerk ex-
plained that the suppliers were having
problems with the quality of the timber
and the delivery is now expected in
February.

It was suggested that the area around
the notice board be tidied up ready for
the seat installation; this was agreed.

Apologies were received from Cllr.
Mr. N. Stammers, these were ac-
cepted.

Community Empowerment Award:

It was resolved to use the £250 grant
to plant wild flowers at the four en-
trances to the village and in the centre,

near the notice board; the Clerk to ob-
tain the necessary permissions from
WCC Highways..

Planning: applications received:

1. Horsham Old Court: rebuild and
new wing; Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor.

2. Elm Lea Hillside: Change of use
from paddock to domestic garden: Cllr
Mrs. D. Goodyear. No comment
faxed 27/10/06

3. Cedar View Laugherne Park: Re-
place eight windows with double
glazed units. Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp.

4. Martley Court: Modifications to
outbuildings to provide garaging and
ancillary accommodation; Cllr. Mr. D.
Cropp

Approvals/ refusals:

1. Sandyfields Kingswood Lane Pro-
posed agricultural worker's dwelling
to replace existing mobile home. Ap-
proved with conditions.

2. Hipplecote Cottage; porch on west
elevation: Approved

3. Hawkenest Farm Easinghope Lane;
detached garaging. Approved with
conditions.

4. Elm Lea; change of use of land. Ap-
proved.

5. Land adj. to Hollins Cottage;
change of use of agricultural land for 2
no. 2 bed mobile homes for agricul-
tural workers. Refused

Other: Notification of: Caravan sites
and control of development Act: Ap-
plication for five caravan certificate:
Malvern View Stables Ockeridge; for
information.

*This is an edited version of the Parish
Council minutes.*

Chantry news

Year 7 Consultations

On behalf of the 'Friends' at the Chantry I would like to thank all of you for putting our bits of news into your various parish magazines and newsletters throughout the year. The effectiveness is underlined by the fact that when we failed to get news in because the meetings were later than the editorial deadlines, people were disappointed. It would seem that even if they do not have a child at the school, the readers like to know what is going on there.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas.

The First Year 7 Tutor Group Consultation Evening took place at the school on the 16th November. We hope that all new pupils and their parents found it constructive. The 'Friends' were there promoting the 'Chantry 200' club, which is to raise funds for a new minibus and selling raffle tickets, for the same purpose. For those parents that did not join the first and buy a ticket for the second, we will get you the next time.

Year 11 Awards Evening

For those parents who do not understand this event, it is where the Year 11 students, that left in July, come back to get the certificates for their GCSE subjects. It is also a great chance for the students to catch up with their mates about what they are doing now, as well as have a gossip about who's going out with whom...has had their nose

pierced...etc. Parents are mandatory here for providing lifts, clapping and being proud in all the right places.

This year's event was run by three pupils doing their ASDAN Gold

Award, with culinary support from the 'Friends'. A few new ideas from the students were included this year and they worked extremely hard as this is a prestige event to celebrate the excellence of the Chantry student.

Another very successful and enjoyable awards evening and we wish them all good luck in the future.



Fundraising

After lengthy discussions it has been decided to concentrate on raising funds through raffles at the Consultation Evenings and School Music and Drama events. This is rather than actual events because of the wide catchment area for the school and the demands on Parent's time. However, feel free to donate raffle prizes. Please note: We do not really want the hideous jumper your great-aunt knitted you for Christmas, but booze and choccies etc are always welcome.

Next 'Friends' Meeting

Anyone can come to the Friends meetings regardless of whether your connection is past or present. We will be into 2007 for the next Friends meeting, which will be Thursday February 8th at 8pm in the School Staff Room.

Irene Walker

Harvest Supper

The memorial hall was filled to capacity for the harvest supper. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and later was entertained by a skilled magician and also by the “Two Davids”, Sherwin and Cropp, who were much enjoyed. The raffle raised £192 for church funds and a super painting by Robin Clifton, which he most kindly donated, was auctioned and raised a substantial sum for the church fabric fund.

The bar profits were given to the memorial hall committee towards their modernisation programme. We are indebted to all who helped to prepare the supper by cooking, by donating gifts, by running the bar, and of course to all who gave their time. Thank you all.

Andrew Williams Memorial Shoot

Saturday 9 September saw the sun shine once again on Rodge Hill Farm, Martley, where our annual charity clay pigeon shoot was held. The Andrew Williams Memorial Cup was won by Mike Tee, the

Brockhill Team won the team event, the Lonely Ladies came first in their class and Ian Parkinson won the ‘Down the Line’ prize.

First of all I wish to thank Mr and Mrs Tiarks for providing us with such a lovely venue and my thanks also go to the shoot committee – Neville Jones, Robert Bridgewater, Trevor Keegan and Graham Taylor, my sister-in-law Beth for painstakingly doing all the entries and paperwork, Ruby for providing tasty refreshments, Andy and Mandy, Carol and Lizzy for manning the busy bar, all those willing children who helped sell raffle tickets, all the scorers and trappers, as well as George and Wendy on ‘Down the Line’.

I must say we sadly missed Don Taylor on the committee and on the day, Margaret Wickens scoring, as well as two of our regular shooters John Lamborn and Andrew Haywood who have all sadly passed away since last year’s event.

Further thanks go to those who donated raffle prizes and auction lots, among which David Banks (case of wine), Barbara Kirby (brandy) Mrs Rowberry (a beautifully hand-crafted picture of a pheasant), George and Wendy Haywood for once again donating their home in the Highlands for a Scottish holiday and Ian Parkinson for acting as auctioneer.

My grateful thanks go once again to all those who came and made such a successful day which raised over £1,800 for charity.

Barbara Williams





Over the Garden Wall in



WICHENFORD NEEDS



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Flower Rota

3 December Advent, no flowers
10 December Advent, no flowers
17 December Christmas decorations
24 December Christmas decorations
31 December Benefice Communion Service, Martley

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship club will meet in the Memorial Hall at 2pm for their Christmas Tea.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Kay Higgins who celebrates her 90th birthday this month. Kay and Hugh served in the last war and have continued to serve Queen and Country in their own way ever since. Well done both of you.

Nora Parsons' Christmas Fair

This year the Christmas Fair will be held on Monday 11 December at 2pm: many Christmas gifts, holly wreaths,

pot plants, and a super raffle with many prizes. Refreshments will be available.

Millennium Green Tidying & Inspection Rota

December: Eric Delahay

Wichenford 100 Club

October winner: C Woodward (ticket 65) £108.

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 30th October 2006 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Cllr G. Britten-Long chaired the meeting. Present, Cllr J. Wells, Cllr J Panton, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr H Rendall, Cllr D Stinton.

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

Democratic half hour/public ques-



tion time.

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

Apologies and approval of absence.

Cllr N Oldfield, (accepted) Cllr K.Randall (accepted). Cllr A Chilvers (accepted).

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2006 were accepted and signed as a true record.

Progress reports

Meadow Cottage

The highways department met with members from the parish council with regard to the railings. The planning department agrees that a hedge should be planted on the inside of the railings and will be writing to the owners.

Elgar Housing

Emails from Festival Housing were read out. The parish council agrees that the reply was unsatisfactory regarding the areas of grass that are not being cut and maintenance of the pavements and kerbs, and asked the clerk to write again. Elgar Housing has a responsibility and must be held accountable.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator.

Cllr Panton asked if the co-ordinator for Kenswick has been registered properly. The clerk will speak to the appropriate people.

Planning

Applications considered since the last

meeting.

Demolition of existing pumping station and construction of a new sewerage pumping station, GRP kiosk, Compound and associated works. Response from Severn Trent Water in the correspondence folder. The parish council has no objection to this proposal.

House extension. Colketts Farm. The parish would like the materials used on the extension to match the existing ones. Otherwise we have no objection to this application.

Proposed stable and ménage and widening of existing access to highway. The parish council has visited the site. Several concerns have been raised regarding the visibility which has been put to the highways department.

Extensions above existing to side and the lowering of 4 windows to front and rear elevations. The Old School House, Wichenford.

The parish council has no objection to this proposal.

Retrospective application to retain climbing frame at Wichenford Millennium Green. The parish council has no objection to this application.

Additional fish breeding and fishing pools, Cob House Farm.

The parish council is aware of 2 footpaths which run across the proposed pools.

Applications to be discussed

Erection of field shelter and store room. The Firs, Wichenford.

The parish council has no objection to this application.

Decisions made by MHDC

Ridgend Cottage. (Removal of condition 14) Approved.

Oast House, Peg Houses. (Internal alterations and 2 skylight windows)

Bushy Ground Ockeridge. (Steel Frame barn) approved.

Severn Trent Water. Approved.

Finance

The income/ expenditure account was discussed and accepted.

The balance up to the 31st July 2006 stands at £12,915.11.

Nora Parsons Day Centre.

It was resolved to donate £150.00 under section 137 of LGA 1972.

Wichenford Churchyard.

It was resolved to give £300.00 to Wichenford Church.

Chestnut tree and plaque

It was resolved to just plant a tree as the parish council feel that a plaque is an unnecessary expenditure.

Councillor Wells attended the Police Community Consultative Group meeting at Abberley Village Hall and met the new community police officer for this area. P.C Gary Jones has taken over from P.C Naulls. A lot of complaints regarding speeding are being received and there will be more speed guns and 2 unmarked police cars in the area. They would like to resurrect a police clinic for local people.

Date and venue of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting arranged for 11th December at 7.30pm
Shirley Sanders, Clerk.

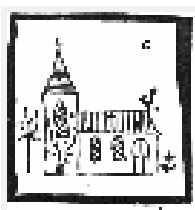
In memoriam—Violet Amos

The family of the late Violet Amos wish to express their thanks for all the kind messages of sympathy and for the donations received in aid of the Air Ambulance. They also wish to thank Jennifer Whitaker for all her kindness that was much appreciated.

Violet and her late husband, Charlie, had lived in Martley for many years and were well known and much respected. Violet will be remembered for her kind and cheerful nature, it was always a pleasure to meet her and enjoy her delightful company, she was a lovely lady and will be sadly missed. We send our deepest sympathy to Ken and Anne and to all the family.

Sabbatical

During January- March 2007, I will be taking sabbatical leave from parish duties. You may still see me around, but I will be taking time out to study and recharge for areas of new responsibility that may happen in the future. I will be back in Easter, but I am sure you will be well looked after by my colleagues. Jennifer Whittaker will be dealing with day-to-day issues and enquiries for baptisms, weddings and funerals. I am sure this time will benefit the continuing work in the United Benefice of Martley, Wichenford and the Lower Teme Valley and ministry beyond this area. *Rev David Sherwin*



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

*'And so this is Christmas, and what
have we done,
another year over, and a new one just
begun',*

Words of John Lennon from his 'Happy Christmas War is over', it's a song that has never lost its relevance; sadly we do not seem to have Christmases when there is no war somewhere in the world.

This song came out at a time when many groups and singers were releasing Christmas hits, a very clever marketing ploy for them as they keep being played year in and year out.

We all have our favourites I am sure, which speak of a Christmas that is tinsel and glitter. Of a Christmas that is often far removed from reality. Like John Lennon's plea for peace, there is an escapism that people long for but find difficult to capture.

I know for some, as I am frequently told, they love Christmas, yet for others, who also tell me, they hate Christmas. But what is it all about? What is it we love or hate?

The fact that it is a time for children and families and friends, for spending money and giving and receiving gifts, it is no wonder that those that have all these things in place can rightfully enjoy it to the full. Yet there are those for whom they have none of this or

very little to celebrate and it can be a difficult time.

Don't get me wrong, I find Christmas wonderful, I love the joy and celebration it can bring and I am keen to make sure others enjoy it too.

You will notice, that surprisingly for me, I have not mentioned what I believe the Christian understanding of Christmas, hidden within the word which is sometimes replaced with an 'X', is Christ! I know in recent years this understanding of Christmas has been lessened in the cause of 'political correctness'. Yet I know that people I speak to from other religions and cultures cannot understand our embarrassment at using the name of Christ and celebrating what is important to us.

Perhaps it is more about the secularisation of society than the need to be careful what we say in front of our neighbours from other faiths. If there is an 'X' in Christmas, if it seems lacking in some way I hope and pray that you will be able to find the one who we sing of in our carols. They're timeless songs, yet their content speaks of one who came into our messy world to bring us joy and hope, and a message of peace to all. If there is one gift we can all receive this Christmas it is that of Jesus.

I started with a pop song, let me end

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December events

- Saturday 2 Dec 9-10.30am Prayer Group, St Leonard, Cotheridge
- Sunday 3 Dec 8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
4.00pm Christingle Service, St Peter, Martley
- Monday 4 Dec 9-12am Advent Devotions, Knightwick Chapel
- Tuesday 5 Dec 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
8.00pm Open Home – Open Bible, at home of George Lawrence
- Sunday 10 Dec 8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
11.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
4.00pm Christingle Service, St Laurence, Wichenford
- Monday 11 Dec 8.30am Prayer Breakfast, home of George Lawrence
2.00pm Christmas Fayre, Nora Parsons Day Centre
- Tuesday 12 Dec 2.00pm Wichenford ladies fellowship Christmas tea, WMHall
7.30pm Chantry HS Christmas Concert, St Peter, Martley
8.00pm Open Home – Open Bible, at home of George Lawrence
- Wednesday 13 Dec 10.15 Holy Communion with Carols, Heaton House
- Thursday 14 Dec 9.00am Broadwas PS Christmas Service, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
1.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter Martley
6.30pm Martley PS Christmas Nativity, St Peter, Martley
- Sunday 17 Dec 8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
9.00am Matins with carols, St Leonard, Cotheridge
4.00pm Carol Service, St Laurence, Wichenford
6.30pm Carol Service, St Peter, Martley
- Monday 18 Dec 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
- Tuesday 19 Dec 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Sunday 24 Dec 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
5.00pm Crib Service, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
10.00pm Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.30pm Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
11.30pm Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Monday 25 Dec 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP), St Leonard, Cotheridge
9.30am Common Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.00am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley
- Sunday 31st Dec 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley

Mothers of Martley

A Family Christmas

Christmas is a time full of family traditions. We can all think back to the way we celebrated it with our own parents and siblings. What Christmas traditions are making lasting memories for your children?

When we become parents, we have to negotiate which of our own childhood Christmas traditions will have a place and what new ones we would like to start.

Here are some ideas:

For a first Christmas, make or buy a stocking that you can sew or add a new decoration to each year. Once your child is old enough, he or she can help to make and add the new decorations.

Take a photo of your children each Christmas, date it and put it in a frame to hang from the Christmas tree. Soon, your tree will be a chronicle of Christmases past.

If your children can sing Christmas carols or even Twinkle Twinkle Star, why not make a Christmas tape/video for relatives who live too far away to visit? Include poems or stories the children have written or they can just talk about their year. A gift to cherish.

Website Watch:
www.parentscentre.co.uk
Information and support for
parents on how to help with your
child's learning.

Other Christmas traditions can include the trip to pick out the Christmas tree, putting on a Christmas puppet show, visiting an outdoor ice rink or going to the pantomime.

However you are celebrating Christmas this year, remember that the best gift of all is the time you spend together. Merry Christmas!

Sue Gibbins

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with part of the carol : Hark the Herald' by Charles Wesley,

'Veiled in flesh the Godhead see

Hail the incarnate Deity!

Pleased as man with man to dwell,

Jesus our Immanuel.'

And so this is Christmas, God come

to earth,

lived among us and longs to live

within us,

in our hearts.

God Bless you all and I wish you a
very Happy Christmas and a peaceful
new year.

Revd David Sherwin

Village Contacts



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| Editor of The Villager | Andrew Chilvers editor@martley.org.uk <i>or</i> 01905 641986 <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 | Gwynn Darby—01886 888490 |
| 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 |