

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 17 No. 7

December 2007

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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

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

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

3rd Sunday in the month:

Path-or-Nones. Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help maintain the footpaths

Mondays

Rhythm Time 9.30-11.30am Martley Memorial Hall *Enq.* Rachel 01886 812565

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)

Martley Mums & Tots 9.30-11.30am
Martley Memorial Hall

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 Talbot, Knightwick

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

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

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

Weight Watchers: 6.30pm-7.30pm
Martley Memorial Hall

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)

See page 29 for contact details of organisations

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

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 Show Donates £900

The Martley Show, held in August, has raised £900.00 for local good causes despite the torrential weather on the day. The Show Committee has decided to donate the money raised to the following:

Martley Village Hall - £250.00

Martley Recreation Association - £250.00

St Peter's Church - £100.00

Tenbury Teme Valley Band - £50.00

Martley Millennium Green - £50.00

Martley Young Farmers - £50.00

Royal British Legion - £50.00

County Air Ambulance - £100.00

The Show, which raised just under £1,000.00 in total, was combined with the Martley Horticultural Society's Annual Show with over 40 stalls, a tombola, BBQ and lots of entertainment. The event was still a success despite the rain.

The Committee is looking for more help and support for the 2008 Show so if you have any ideas, please call our Show Committee Chairman, Eileen Stammers on 01886 888513

Silver Surfers Award

A few weeks ago I heard that I had been nominated by Helen Anderson of South Witham Broadband (Martley Web Mesh mentors), for Silver Surfer Entrepreneur of the Year presented by Digital Unite. This competition is open to citizens over 50.

Angela & I arrived at the Commons to be confronted by security fencing and lots and lots of very helpful policemen. You go through an air port style security check before being allowed inside. I had not been there before and it was really most impressive both for scale and decorations. Monitors allow you to keep up with the day's business in both Houses.

There were chairs reserved for us in the Jubilee Room. There were speeches by people who were very proud of themselves for encouraging older people to use the Internet but we learnt the most startling fact that 14 million older people are NOT accessing the internet at the moment. We were also introduced to Internet Ranger of the Year in the person of 13

year old Joseph Devries who runs Silver Surfer classes in Port Talbot and Dora Pegg, a delightful 92 year old who picked up the surfing knowledge quite quickly, aided by her touch typing skills (to the shame of most present), who now teaches other residents of her sheltered accommodation.

I received my prize (a laptop) from Stephen Timms MP, who had helped set up the Community Broadband Network where I learnt a tremendous amount about community networks as well as 'meeting' experts in their field.



Richard Jackman (left) receiving his award

I took the opportunity to badger BT managers there about the quality of ADSL out in the countryside and asked what they were promising for the future. The answer was that by 2012 they hope to have implemented technology to raise speeds to 24 Mbits over the speeds obtained by the current copper phone lines.

It was a great experience, and we gained a laptop, but were very hungry as we had had no food since the train trip up!

Richard Jackman

Martley Spurs

October was not really the best of months for our teams with many of the league games not being played as loads of preliminary rounds of all the various local cups were taking place.

The reserves played Hoobrook Crown on 30 September in the first round of the Junior Cup but lost by 2 goals to four. The Saturday Premier side had no fixture on the first Saturday of October, but the Sunday Premier boys did and thoroughly beat Bromsgrove General Reserves 12-0 in the Worcester Nursing Junior Cup; Mark Owen, Richard Taylor and Danny Scheppell all netted a couple. The Reserves moved ahead in their cup match by beating Hallow Village 4-3 after extra time.

The 13th saw the Saturday Premier side lose 2-3 to Meta Sports in the Kidderminster Hospital Minor Cup round One. On the 14th the Sunday Premier eleven drew four all with Tolladine Sports, when Silvester Morris netted a pair, but the Reserves lost to Malvern Rada. There was no fixture for the Saturday side on the 20th and the Sunday Premier side played in the first round of the Katherine Rayer Cup when the Spurs beat Colwall St James 7-1, Neil

Harrison and Scott Morris both netting a brace while the Reserves lost 7-0 to FCX1. The final weekend of the month was also taken over by cup-tie matches. The league tables at the end of this month showed all three teams very low on the lists but they will surely climb up them when all these cup games are over.

The annual grand draw will take place just before Christmas, tickets will be available from all club members.

Beth Williams

Martley & District Horticultural Society

Mr Ian Nex was our speaker at the monthly meeting held on Thursday 25 October. Mr Nex gave us lots of ideas on how to get Autumn colour in our gardens which he illustrated with some lovely slides.

After the AGM in November and the Christmas Dinner on 7 December, we shall commence our 2008 programme on Thursday 24 January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please join us.

Pam (01886-888521)

Teme Valley Views

The Teme Valley Children's Centre has made dealing with domestic abuse a priority in 2007 and will continue to do so into 2008. It is a subject that is often difficult to discuss; however, it is extremely common with one in four women experiencing abuse at some point in their life. The reason that the

Children's Centre feels that it must get involved is that 90% of domestic incidents are witnessed by children and domestic abuse is an increasing concern in rural, isolated areas. In addition, domestic violence often starts or increases during pregnancy.

In Worcestershire, the County Forum Against Domestic Abuse is working with the police, women's refuges, health services, education officials and schools, magistrates and other courts, social services, the probation service and victim support services to prevent domestic abuse. The Children's Centre helps support families affected by abuse by introducing them (individuals or families) to the many specialists who can provide sensitive, expert and appropriate help.

Christmas can be a stressful time, but if there are already complex issues affecting a family, festivities can cause existing problems to escalate. Below are contact details for services that you, or someone you know, might need. There is a lot of help available and no-one has to suffer alone.

Worcestershire's 24 hour Domestic Violence Helpline (0800 980 3331)

Police Domestic Violence Unit (08457 444888)

Worcester Refuge (01905 616411)

Mankind (support for male victims of domestic abuse) (0870 794 4124)

Victim Support (01905 726885 or 0845 126 4101)

Teme Valley Children's Centre (01886 812982).

Martley Ramblers

Although it was a very foggy day for the November walk, and disappointing from the point of views or non-views, 8 members and 2 dogs enjoyed 5 miles around Prickley Green, Rodge Hill and back to the village.

As there is no walk this month, watch this space in January for details of the 2008 programme that was arranged at the recent AGM. We are hoping the weather and farming restrictions will let us do some of the walks that had to be cancelled this year.

Happy Christmas to all members and any new prospective members. Keep your boots well dubbed. See you in January 2008.

Kate King

Rhythm Time

Offers Fun Educational Music Classes and we are starting new pre school classes in Martley

Since 1995 Rhythm Time has been offering fun and educational music classes to babies and pre-schoolers around the UK. Health visitors recommend classes and now Rhythm Time, already running classes in the Memorial Hall in Martley is extending classes to include a Pre school class.

The Rhythm Time classes, run by Rachel Austin, offer fun music sessions to help nurture and develop the innate musical ability that small babies and children possess. Rhythm Time has 3 clearly defined age groups. Baby classes for children aged from

birth to 15months, Toddler classes from 15months to 3 years and Pre-school classes from 3 years of age until they start full time education.

In the baby classes we exercise their limbs, dance and sing all the time, while including other activities to help brain development, eye tracking and balance.

When they move to the toddler class we sing exciting songs and explore percussion instruments. Through these activities co-ordination, rhythm, pitch and listening skills are developed.

In the Pre-school class we introduce musical signs and simple notation while developing more fully their sense of rhythm and pitch. It's all great preparation for playing an instrument later on.

Come along and have some fun! Monday morning 9.30am till 11.30 am (9.30 babies, 10.10 toddlers, 10.50 pre school). For more information on class times and to book a FREE TRIAL SESSION at a class to suit, simply call Rachel on 01886 812565



Martley WI

**Wednesday 12 December 7.30pm
Heaton House**

With our AGM behind us and a New Year and exciting programme awaiting us, we are relaxing this month and getting into festive mood. It is to be a Black, White and Gold

themed evening and we have been asked to wear these colours, either one, another or all together. The competition is for an old black and white photo of one's self, kept secret from prying eyes until the guessing starts. The trading table will be the usual Christmas red and green themed one, proceeds to ACWW. Following the talk by Sheila Tremelton about PUPS, it has been decided the proceeds from the jam jars lucky dip will be sent to her, so plenty of jam jars please.

After the sinking of the boat in the summer floods, on which we were to have had our sunset cruise on the Avon, a small donation in sympathy was sent to the owners. They were thrilled and sent a lovely message of thanks saying they will put the cash towards improving facilities for the disabled when the boat is rebuilt. Members have recently been out and about enjoying themselves, including the Elgar Group meeting to hear the Tudor Maids and to the evening shopping expedition to Lakeland in Worcester. They were all made most welcome, had good demonstrations and lots of goodies to eat, plus the added bonus of buying discounted goods.



Visitors are always welcome to join us at our meetings. Do not worry about wearing the appropriate colours, just join us for a happy evening.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

It's Hello and Goodbye time. Goodbye to Kate and Steve who have moved to Clifton. We hope they will soon be settled there and that Rory will find new smells and walks to enjoy. Hello to Julie and Jason Hales and family Josie, Louis and Alex who have moved into Willow Barn. We hope they have many happy years there. It is lovely to hear the sound of happy children.

The promised airing of our traditional haymaking was shown on Nature of Britain. Correction, an edited version of a maximum of 1 ½ minutes was shown. Blink and you missed it. Your correspondent and Jacob donkey obviously finished on the cutting room floor. Quite a relief as both were having a bad hair day anyway. There is a sneaking feeling that maybe the huge deficit in the budget of the BBC could be caused by the way producers and photographers shoot so much footage that is never used. Do not bother to ask for autographs.

The lay-by operative continues to collect many cans, bottles and leftover lunches. This month the star find was 3 lengths of heavy-duty, white-coated steel trunking – 23 feet in total – not placed in the litter bin and not left over

from last month's white box van. Do we have an expert in the village who could value this for scrap purposes? Proceeds to charity.

Kate King



Martley Parish Council

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Martley Parish Council Held On Monday 1 October 2007 at the Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp, Cllr. Mr. M. Nott, Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear, Cllr. Mrs. I. Powell, Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh, Cllr. Mrs. E. Rothwell. In Attendance: Mrs. S. Williams (Clerk to The Parish Council), 4 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

1. The Chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about Parish business;

It was confirmed that a shortened version of the minutes from The Parish Council will be published in The Villager from either this month or next month onwards. 2. Worcester County Council and Malvern Hills District Council are still looking into all aspects of the flooding; it was acknowledged that drainage would not be affected by any new builds on the Capriol development in St Peters Drive, as major drainage was noted at

the Planning Stage. 3. The issue of speeding by the schools will be an agenda item for next meeting for Councillor Hall. The Chairman explained the possibility of pursuing a Community Call for Action.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 20:06.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr. Mr. N. Hall and Councillor Coombey-Jones and were accepted. Apologies were also received from Councillor Davies and Councillor Williams. Councillor Taylor was absent from the meeting.

Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interests: There were no declarations of interest in the agenda.

Minutes of the meeting held on 3. September 2007: It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

PC G Jones: Was not present at the meeting and thus there was no discussion re: the possibility of a permanent police office in Martley. The Clerk will invite PC G Jones to the next meeting.

District Councillor's Report: District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams had sent in her apologies and thus there is no report.

County Councillor's Report: County Councillor Mr. A. Davies had sent in his apologies and thus there is no report.

Play Equipment: Len Hoskins was not present at the meeting and thus there was no update. The Clerk will invite Len to the next meeting.

Councillor Rothwell's update:

Councillor Rothwell delivered her report which is included as addendum 1. Councillor Rothwell is to speak with Ms Helen Davis from Martley Primary School regarding capturing ideas from the youth of Martley. The Chairman thanked Councillor Rothwell for her continued work.

Millennium Green Trust: Chairman reported that they are still compiling their business plan. The Clerk is to put this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Planning: Applications received September 2007: 07/01344/ LBC Hillside Farm, Hillside. Demolish single storey and erect new single storey extn. 07/01255/ FUL Admiral Rodney Inn, Martley Demolish bowling alley and build new rooms.

Approvals/refusals: 07/01216/FUL Cedar Cob, Hillside. Approved. 07/01118/FUL 16 Hollins Lane, (single storey). Approved. 07/01120/FUL 16 Hollins Lane, (two storey). Approved. Chairman to speak with Councillor Taylor about the planning application for the Admiral Rodney Inn.

Correspondence. Included:

Parish Plan – Newsletter from Community First, WCC response to flooding report, The Crown Inn – Bonfire Night, The Nora Parsons Day Centre AGM invitation and request for help. Councillor Goodyear attended the AGM at The Nora Parsons Day Centre and reported a deficit in their budget this year in excess of £2000 and asked whether The Parish Council

could make a donation to the Centre as they have done on previous years. The Clerk is to add to the agenda for the next meeting. Councillor Goodyear also attended the tip meeting on Thursday 27 September and reported that Infini has now taken over the running of the tip and will be overseen by Stewart Richard and Damien Smith. Councillor Goodyear went on to report that the ditches are to be investigated and the site is giving a good supply of electricity into the grid.

Finance: It was resolved to adopt the accounts. The Clerk is to follow the previous format for next months accounts and onwards.

Parish Path's Wardens Report: No Report.

Urgent decisions since last meeting: None.

Councillor's Reports and Items for Future Agendas: 1. Lengthsman to be asked to replace manhole cover on New Road and to cut all hedgerows back where necessary i.e. Horsham Lane. 2. Clerk to chase Worcester County Council regarding the replacement of the finger post at Willow Road. 3. Clerk to discuss overhanging trees at Laugherne House with Wichenford Clerk. 4. Councillors re-iterated the poor workmanship of Worcester County Council Highways Department and their contractors, but it was noted that debris had been recently cleared from Ham Bridge. 5. Chairman to investigate the use of the caravan on the grounds of The Admiral Rodney Inn.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting is on Monday 5 November at 8 p.m. Meeting closed at 21:12 p.m.

Addendum 1. Councillor Rothwell's Report (abbreviated)

On 11 September I attended the 'Play Celebration Event' organised by Malvern Hills District Council. For me as a newly-elected councillor, it was a real 'eye opener' into what we can achieve as a community. There is much help and funding available, we just need to ask for it! Two schemes that Martley could benefit from are:

Play Rangers Scheme. Trained candidates will entertain and involve young people from ages 1-25, but anyone can get involved. It's a scheme for the whole community. The rangers would come on a weekly basis, for example, and carry out activities with minimal amount of equipment, outdoors or indoors. The scheme emphasises the social engagement of young people and the importance of play like teaching 'street play'; tag etc. The scheme is held outside school hours and could be during school holidays. Initially we would need to 'purchase' the time of the play rangers. Long term, I would like Martley to be in a position when we could have, say, four volunteers who would be willing to be trained and could take on this role. Martley could then build upon this idea and we could form different groups to accommodate the varying ages within our community.

Mobile Youth Unit. This is a bus that goes into a community and allows children to fulfil play ambitions on the bus, such as use of arts and crafts, computer games and building social skills. These schemes have been set up in Lower Broadheath and Hallow. They are entitled to this type of youth work due to the increasing crime figures and bad behaviour there. Martley has a need due to its location, the number of young people in the community and if we don't nip it in the bud now, increasing bad behaviour and rising crime figures! There is a grant available from the BIG lottery fund that we could apply for:

'Playful ideas' programme. This could be used to provide a new play area. Applications to be in by 31 December. I have spoken with Len Hoskins about this grant and I hope we can move forward with this to achieve a new play area for the village. I now have a few important contacts in the area who have set up schemes in rural and town communities who will be of great help to us.

We need to accommodate young people in Martley and as a parish council it is imperative that we focus on involving the community. It is important that we get youths involved from the earliest stage possible, therefore I suggest that we produce some literature in order to attract young people in Martley. We need to talk to them and find out what they want. We should hold an event in the Village Hall before the year is out and

invite all ages, children, parents, grandparents to come and share their ideas for carrying out projects and how they feel they can contribute to the community. We need to encourage them to think of inspirational ideas in order to apply for various funding so that we can make these ideas a reality. What I need to know: Who will help me? Can I start advertising the need for ideas? Start handing out flyers/posters? Plan a date for the event?

Martley's Past

There are a few things taking place in Martley's School in the past that are – very fortunately – not happening today. Viz. January-February 1909.

“January 26 1909. There is quite an epidemic of influenza colds. Ten boys are absent today out of 34. Several who are present are affected, and lessons are carried on with difficulty owing to the frequent interruptions.

January 27 Only 20 boys present.

January 28 School closed on account of the amount of sickness prevalent.

February 8 Reopened school. 22 present. Several still unfit to attend.

February 12 Condition of boys improved. Benjamin Taylor, who is suffering from tuberculosis, and is not likely to attend for a long time, has had his name withdrawn from the registers.

February 16 Ernest Kenley was sent home this pm to be cleansed, as large body lice were found upon him, even

crawling on his coat.

February 19 Archer Anderson is still unfit to attend school.

February 22 E. Kenley, who was sent home on the 16th (see above) returned this morning During Religious Instruction vermin was visible on his flesh, and he was again sent home to get clean.” Ugh!

Alan Boon

Mobile Library

The library visits Wichenford on the first Wednesday of the month. We do not want to lose it, so please use it!

Malvern View

10am-10.30am

Wichenford church

10.35am-11am

Kings Green Farm

11.05am -

11.35am

Rosses Green



Martley Library Opening Hours

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

Mon	2.00-7.00pm
Wed	4.00-7.3-0pm
Thu	10.00am-1.00pm
Fri	2.00-4.00pm
Sat	10.00am-12 noon

Christmas Events in Martley & Wichenford

Martley and District Pre-School Christmas Fayre

For a one stop Christmas Shop come along to the Pre-School Christmas Fayre at Martley Memorial Hall on Saturday 8 December from 12 to 3pm. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine while you do all your Christmas shopping. Stalls will include:

Holly & Mistletoe Usborne books
Elements jewellery

Ewe Kidz hats and scarves Mini IQ
Virgin Vie cosmetics Phoenix Cards
Body Shop and more...

With a visit to Father Christmas and craft activities to keep children amused while you are busy shopping, ticking off that Christmas list couldn't be



Christmas Whist Drive

Don't miss this special Christmas whist drive with seasonal prizes. It will be held on Friday 14 December at 8pm in Wichenford Memorial Hall. Proceeds in aid of the hall.

Christmas Fayre Nora Parsons Day Centre Wichenford

Monday 3 December
1.30pm

Tombola cake stalls
raffle
home-made produce and
gifts
and much more!



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford



WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Flower Rota

2 December Advent, no flowers

9 December Advent, no flowers

16 December Christmas

Decorations

23 December Christmas Decorations

30 December No Service



Janet Andrews

01886 888303

Sheila Richards

01886 888378

Farewell

A familiar face in Wichenford has left us after living with her family among us for many years. Mrs Margaret Baldwin did so much for School, Charities, Church and Village Hall, in raising huge sums at her Bingos, and the tombola at our Fetes, and much else. She and her family always supported events held in our village. We shall miss you, Margaret, but sincerely hope you come back from time to time to see us in Wichenford.

Harvest Supper

The supper was a very happy occasion and the evening raised a substantial sum of money for the church and the hall. The raffle was very well supported and Mrs Britten's jam and jelly stand was a great attraction. We are most grateful to her and send special thanks to Hazel for her part in

making the preserves. The supper committee thanks everyone who helped to make the evening a success, the cooks, the prize givers, the raffle and bar organisers and not forgetting our super washers-up. Thank you all.

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship will meet on 11 December in the Memorial Hall at 2pm.

Graham Townsend

We are very sad to learn that Graham has died and send our deepest sympathy to Margaret and to all the family. Graham was well known in the community and very well liked. He will be sadly missed. A tribute will follow in the next magazine.

Michael John Knott (Micky)

We are deeply sorry that Micky has died and send our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Corleen, to Makaila and to all the family. Micky was a great

sportsman, rugby being his main sport. The respect and esteem in which he was held was shown by the hundreds of people that attended his funeral at Pershore Abbey. He will be very sadly missed.

Wichenford 100 Club

AGM Monday 8 October 2007

The Membership list ended at 199 for the year 2006-2007. This number is 17 down on the previous year, mostly due to people moving out of the village and newcomers not being contacted by 100 Club officials. It was agreed to keep the prize money at a fixed amount during 2006-07, rather than let it reflect exactly month per month the money to hand; so prize money was fixed at a static £100 per month for the rest of the year. This year it was decided to divide the money between the Trust and the Memorial Hall. As the Trust were still not in receipt of last year's donation, it was agreed to issue a new cheque for £1,800 to cover the two years and to donate £500 to the Hall. It was also agreed to change the amount paid out each month - as a trial. This year the first number drawn will receive £75 and the next two numbers will receive their £12 subscription back. With 36 winners per year instead of just 12, we hope more people will be encouraged to either 'stay with us' or to join us.

Wanted!

A treasurer : to handle the two bank accounts and keep accounts

Two collection organisers : to divide up the parish into areas and to supervise the delivery of subscription reminder sheets in those areas; to supervise the collection of subscriptions.

The Secretary will continue to keep up the membership lists and will co-ordinate the above.

Our grateful thanks to all Club members for continuing to support us and for making this fund raising effort so worth while.

October results (new style)

This month's winners: 128 Mr A Douglas, Berrow View £75: 204 Pam Turner & 84 Carma Wetherall each receive £12.00.

St. Laurence, Wichenford

The Friends of St. Laurence, Wichenford helped to pay for the replacement of some of the sandstone blocks on the west wall of the Church. We have now received the Quinquennial Report from the Architect. Amongst other things, this calls for work to be done on the roof and much of the electric wiring to be replaced. Monies received from the congregation, social events and gifts are helping to cover the running costs of the church but I am asking people who live in the village and only make use of the church occasionally to make a donation to The Friends of St. Laurence to help pay for these necessary repairs.

My address is Bob Whyatt, Cedar

House, Broadwas-on-Teme, Worcester, WR6 5NE. Tel. 01886 822298 and the e-mail address is bob.whyatt@dsl.pipex.com. Please try to assist us.

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1 October 2007 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford. Councillor G Britten Long chaired the meeting. (Chairman)
Present: Mrs J Panton, Mrs H Rendall, Mr M Andrews. In attendance: Mrs S Sanders (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Democratic half hour/public question time

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

Apologies and approval of absence were accepted.

District and County Councillors Report. There were no reports received.

Declaration of interest

The clerk reminded every-one of the need to declare interests and to keep the book up to date. Cllrs Britten-Long declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 Wichenford Memorial Hall.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2007 were read. Minutes were then accepted and signed as a true record.

Progress Reports

Festival Housing Meeting: The clerk and Cllr Randall and the Lengthsman met with Festival Housing to discuss the problems in the parish. It was reported to the parish council that the fence and bank outside 30/31 Queens Estate needs attention. The clerk to contact festival housing.

Litter picking. The clerk has spoken with the Cecil Duckworth Trust who will supply all the equipment, jackets, litter pickers and bags. All we have to do is tell them when we want to do it, so we can collect the equipment. The clerk has put a note in the October Villager asking for volunteers. A date will be set at the next meeting.

Guises/Rosses Lane The public enquiry is to be held in the Memorial Hall on 23 – 25 October. The date has been put on the notice boards.

Hedge Cutting Leaflets. There are none of these leaflets left and it was agreed not to print any out for landowners as they probably know the regulations.

Planning

Applications considered since the last meeting. No applications have been considered.

Decisions made by MHDC 07/00938/FUL/00940/LBC. Proposed enlargement of glazed link and retrospective permission sought for discrepancies with previous approvals. Laugherne Brook House, Wichenford. (Refused). 07/00853/FUL. New driveway gates. Laugherne Hill, Wichenford. (Approved).

07/0114/FUL. Extension to Barn. Ridgend Barn, Wichenford. (Approved). 07/00949/FUL. Conservatory, Meadow Cottage. Wichenford. (Approved). 07/00843/FUL – 07/00844/LBC Extension for garden room. (Approved). 07/00788/LBC. Replacement of rotten windows. St Anthonys Cottage, Wichenford. (Approved). 07/01203/FUL. First floor extension. Mallenders, Wichenford. (Approved)

Applications to be considered.

07/01297/FUL. Extension to living space and additional parking. 4 Queensway, Wichenford. The parish council has no objection to this application. 07/01372/FUL. Proposed erection of oak framed garden room. The Tallet, Cockshoot Farm. The parish council has no objection to this application. 07/01423/FUL. New Access for the Masons, Venn Lane Wichenford. The application was discussed and the highway report read out. It was agreed that a site meeting should be held and arranged for the 10 October. Clerk to contact absent councillors.

Finance

The income/expenditure accounts were discussed and accepted. The current balance up to 31 July 2007 stands at £11,253.88. There were three cheques totalling £769.26 for agreement and signature. The clerk had already sent off a cheque for £141.00 for the completion of the audit.

An invoice presented on the night for the hire of the Memorial Hall for £29.00 was agreed. The second half of the precept has been received.

Completed Audit Return

The completed audit return for year ending 31 March 2007 has been advertised on the notice boards. The clerk showed the council the letter explaining why the audit had been returned for minor alteration.

Memorial Hall Donation

Cllr Britten-Long reported on the meeting of the Memorial Hall held on 21 August. The finances were discussed and the Hall committee agreed to source new trustees and various ideas for fund raising were discussed. Cllr Rendall pointed out that the parish council is responsible at the end of the day for the Memorial Hall, Millennium Green and the Day Centre, and all three needs to work independently without reverting to the parish council.

Model code of conduct.

The parish council resolves to adopt the Model Code of Conduct for parish and town councils which includes Section 12.2. of the Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct.

Councillors Training: Councillors are unable to attend current training courses.

Correspondence.

Included: For decision by the parish council. The email regarding the Martley website is to be discussed at the next parish council meeting when more councillors are present. The

clerk was asked to include the letter in the correspondence folder for councillors comments. It was agreed to include the letter from Cllr Stinton, wishing to resign as vice chairman, on the next agenda.

Councillor's Reports and Items for Future Agendas

Election of Vice Chairman. It was suggested that a notice board should

be placed in the south of the village and at Kenswick.

Date and venue of next meeting

Meetings were arranged for 8 November, 11 December, 28 January, and 10 March 2008. All will be held in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Burns Night Supper

Friday 25 January 2008

Wichenford Memorial Hall, Venn Lane Wichenford

7:30pm for 8pm

This will be a fun evening around the traditional Burn's Night meal to celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns, Scotland's finest poet.

***Cock-a-Leekie Soup
Haggis tatties and neeps
Topsy trifle
Coffee***

(Catering by Dawe Fine Catering of Pershore)

Local entertainment will follow the meal and include songs, readings and poems of Robert Burns. There will be a short speech offered in appreciation of the poet's life and works.

**All Welcome. Tickets £15 per head. Cash bar.
Only 60 tickets will be sold so please book soon !
*Please wear tartan on the night or dress to kill!***

Tickets for the event from Sheila Richards tel: 01886 888378; Gill Richardson tel: 01905 425652 or James Hyslop: 01886 887805

This event is arranged by the local Church of England churches for the whole community. Any profit from the event will go to a local charity. Details of the event as above, and not as previously announced in last month's The Villager.

St Richard's Hospice is set to Light up the City with Love!



Lights of Love – why not dedicate a light to someone you love this Christmas?

In memory of a loved one, in celebration, or as a gift to someone who is absent this Christmas, why not remember them in a special and unique way? To dedicate a light, which will shine on the St Richard's Hospice Christmas

Trees in Worcester, St Andrew's Spire - Deansway, Malvern, Christ Church and Droitwich, Victoria Square, and to find out more about the Lights of Love events, please contact the fundraising team 01905 763963

If you were unable to attend the Cathedral service on 16 November, there are two alternative events are taking place this year:

Weds 5 Dec at 6pm. St Andrews Church (on the corner of the High Street)

Droitwich followed by a special 'Switch on' around the tree in Victoria Square -

Tues 11 Dec at 6.30pm. Christ Church, Malvern, including a special 'switch on' (inside).

There is no minimum donation to dedicate a light. The names of your loved ones will be displayed on the boards surrounding the tree in St Andrew's Spire and in a Book of Thanksgiving placed in the Cathedral, Christ Church and Droitwich Library throughout December. We will also send you a special card that can be hung on your tree at home. We would like to take the opportunity to remind you that ALL donations for the St Richard's tree come directly to the hospice in support of our work and we are hugely grateful for your generosity.

For more information please contact the fundraising office on 01905 763963 or go to our website www.strichardshospice.org.uk

Alison Weston, Community Fundraiser

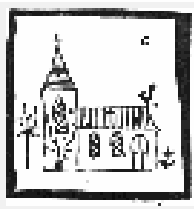
St. Richard's Hospice, Wildwood Drive, Worcester. WR5 2QT

Charity no. 515668

Tel: 01905 763963 Fax: 01905 351911 www.strichards.org.uk

Just a thought
In this month of over
indulgence can we
remember the old motto
"To live simply so others
can simply live"!





Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Sitting here in my study, with a blank sheet of paper, pondering what to write for “Church Words” at Christmas—“Easy!” you might say, “Its obvious, write about Christmas!!” OK, here goes: the lights, the tinsel, the presents, the tree, the baubles, Christmas songs, Christmas carols, Santa, Father Christmas, sleigh bells, reindeer, turkey, crackers, mulled wine, angels, shepherds, stars, donkeys, kings .. I could go on and on and on and on, but I won’t. That first Christmas, arranged for us from on high by Almighty God himself, was not quite what we have today. Let’s imagine what it would have been like planning, as the creator of the world that first Christmas. Planning to enter into his creation and bring it back to himself. What would we write on that blank sheet of paper? How would we go about it? It is most unlikely that we would choose an unmarried mother, who would give birth to a vulnerable child, into a race whose country was occupied by an empire. Born of a lowly family, even though of a royal line. Born in a stable not in a

palace or in a stately home.

Born with little ceremony or fanfare (except for the angels!)

It makes you stop and think, doesn’t it? It makes you ask, are you sure this is right? But, yes, that’s the way it was. That’s how God came to us, in humility, not pride and in gentleness, not power, yet Jesus was indeed God with us, Emmanuel.

So as Almighty God finishes writing his plans for Christmas, he might have said, “Well, that’s Christmas done then, not just for another year but for all eternity. Will anyone believe it? Well, let’s see what the shepherds and the kings think. And everyone else - will they believe? We’ll wait and see.” May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. God bless and keep you.

Rev David Sherwin



Church Diary for December



Sun 2 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 6.30pm Advent Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mon 3 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence Wichenford
Tues 4 Dec	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Sun 9 Dec	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00 am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 4.00pm Christingle Service, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Licensing of Eucharistic Ministers, St Johns Church
Mon 10 Dec	8.30am Prayer Breakfast at Jill Smith's 2.00pm Nora Parsons Day Centre Xmas Sale
Wed 12 Dec	10.15am Holy Communion with Carols, Heaton House
Thu 13 Dec	1.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter, Martley
Sun 16 Dec	9.00am Matins with Carols, St Leonard, Cotheridge 3.00pm Carol Service, Knightwick Chapel 4.00pm Carol Service, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Carol Service, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Carol Service, St Peter, Martley
Mon 17 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tue 18 Dec	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 19 Dec	10.15am Holy Communion with Carols, Heaton House
Thu 20 Dec	9.00am Broadwas Primary School Xmas Service in Church
Sun 23 Dec	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Br'was 6.30pm Carol Special, St Peter, Martley
Mon 24 Dec	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, Br'was
Tue 25 Dec	9.00am, Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley
Sun 30 Dec	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas



In the Garden



Get Composting!

Now is an ideal time to take stock of the past growing season, and plan any changes you would like to make. Soil is a good place to start!

It may sound boring, but soil is the one of the most important things on this planet. We rely on it for beautiful flowers & nutritious vegetables and fruit. The more we look after it, the better it will respond to extreme conditions, such as drought or flooding.

Adding humus feeds and conditions soil. Manure is the traditional material, but comes in large quantities and is messy to handle. The best is home-made compost, free and easy to make from garden and kitchen wastes. It feeds the soil, opens up the structure, and attracts worms. Worms help drain soil by tunnelling, and as they digest organic matter they distribute it, fertilizing the soil as they work. Compost-rich soil also retains moisture without becoming waterlogged.

There are compost bins to suit every sized pocket and garden, from small

plastic bins to large, wooden ones. It makes sense to compost as much household and garden waste as possible. You save money, as the need to buy in fertilizers and composts will be reduced, and fewer trips to the tip equals fuel savings. You are also doing your bit for the local environment!

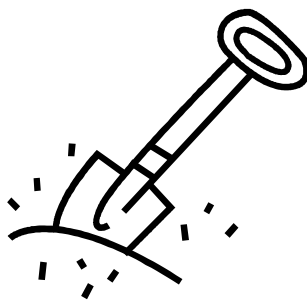
For great compost, aim for a balance of 50% “greens” (sappy plant material like grass cuttings, fruit and vegetable peelings), and 50% “browns” (shredded prunings, straw, crumpled paper, cardboard, toilet roll innards, egg boxes, tea bags, leaves and vacuum dust. Do not add cooked food, meat or dairy products as these can attract vermin, but egg shells are fine.

Although it is good practice to turn the compost at least once to speed up decomposition, it isn't compulsory! (Although an hour's compost turning is far more fun than an hour at the gym, and free exercise!) In 9-12 months you should have finished compost ready to use.

So, get composting! Bargain bins are available from our local council. Tel: 0845 077 0757 or go to:

www.recyclenow.com/compost

AH



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	Vacancy. Contact 01886 888393
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Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org.uk
Martley Parish Council	Chair: Dave Cropp—01886 888398; Clerk: Sally Williams—01299 832949
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	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431