

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 18 No. 7

December 2008

Editor: Michelle Higgins (01886888344)

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: Aileen Parker. (01886 888456)

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 editor@martley.org

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 Martley Memorial Hall car park to help maintain the local footpaths

Mondays

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

Martley Parish Council: 1st Monday in the month 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling: 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

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

Martley Mums and Tots: 9.30-11.30am
Martley Memorial Hall

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing:
7pm Martley Memorial Hall *Enq.* Jeff & Thelma 01886 821772

Martley Folk Club: 1st Wednesday in the month at The Talbot, Knightwick and 3rd Wednesday at The Admiral Rodney

Martley WI: 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm 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

See Church Words on page 27 for details of services

See articles inside for details of special events
AND changes of time/date/venue 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 28 for contact details of organisations

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



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

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



Worcestershire Village of the Year 2008

Martley are the runners-up, with Menithwood the winners! Although we came second, we got a special commendation for our ICT (information communication technology). On 22 October, I went to The Elms at Abberley, on the initiation of Menithwood and Community First, who provide technical support, advice and grants to rural projects, to receive our certificate. Hopefully by the time you read this, the certificate will be on display in the Martley Memorial Hall. Menithwood showed a short film they had made to tell people about their village and why they liked living there, and showed their community spirit and fun. It starred four children, who attended the celebration evening to receive the winners plaque. The awards were presented by Brian Challis, FRSA MinstLM, who runs the competition on behalf of Calor, the competition sponsors. There are 1400 villages in England and Wales and the 40 county winners can go forward to the National Competition.

Everyone from Menithwood was very enthusiastic about their village and keen to help us in Martley prepare a new presentation if we decide to take part in the competition again next year. What do you think, folks?

Michelle Higgins

Police Surgery for December

We are going to change the December surgery from 22 December to 15 December.

CSO Matt Smith 7184

Martley Local Policing Team

Tenbury Wells Police Station ext 3581

Martley 100 Club

Dear Villagers

We wonder if you'd like to support a Martley 100 Club – other Parishes do this and have found it a very successful way of fundraising and having a bit of fun along the way. We hope you will join us in attempting to raise funds vital for the future of our Memorial Hall to pay for the ever-increasing running costs and upgrading of its facilities. If we manage to secure 100 villagers we could raise £1,800 with £800 paid out in prizes and £1,000 for the Hall. The

amount we raise will depend obviously on the number of members joining the Club. If each household has a ticket, it will be a great help to your Memorial Hall. If each could take two tickets, it would be an even greater help and also, of course, doubles your chances of winning!

If you would like to join, the cost is only £18.00 per entry per annum. You could win £50.00 each month, plus draws of £100.00 in June and November. (NB: The monthly win amount will be pro-rata if we have fewer than 100 members).

Please complete the form included with this moth's issue of The Villager, and return it with a SAE to: Annette Smith, (Village Hall Committee Secretary), Fairview, Willow Road, Martley, Worcester, WR6 6PS (Tel: 01886 821 895) together with your subscription of £18.00 per entry by 1 December 2008. Please make cheques payable to "Martley Memorial Peace Hall". Your ticket number will be returned to you in your SAE. The Club will start from January 2009.

The Teme Valley Views



From The Teme Valley Children's Centre

The Teme Valley Children's Centre rolling health programme is an initiative providing vital support for new parents and their babies. If you have recently had a baby or are

expecting one soon, why not sign up for our free post-natal course? It provides an opportunity to obtain valuable support and advice from both parents in a similar situation and invited experts. The course will begin on 20 January with a session focussing on cranial osteopathy. Cranial osteopathy can help ease colic in babies and help them to feed and sleep. This is a new session on the course and we are delighted that an expert in the Teme Valley will be running it.

On 27 January a representative from New Generation will provide advice on nursery equipment, particularly safety equipment, car seats, real nappies and clothing. Two regulars to the course return on 3 February. Jenny Parsonage, a Health Visitor, will answer any questions you may have and also introduce you to baby massage. This will also be the perfect opportunity to discuss paediatric first aid with our regular trainer, Martin Bennett. In the final session on 10 February, Alison Willis will provide advice on dental health.

The course will take place at Upper Sapey Village Hall between 10am and 11.30am. If you are interested in the postnatal course or any other TVCC initiatives, please contact Sam at the Children's Centre (01886 812982) or check out our website www.temevalley-cc.org.uk.



A Focus Group on Waste Collection Services

In the Malvern Hills District Council Area

In October I was invited to attend a focus group on waste collection services – and what an interesting evening it turned out to be! In attendance was Debra Parker, Recycling and Waste Management Officer. We learned that the number of households in the area using the recycling facilities, whether bottle banks, “the tip”, or coloured sacks for disposal of household items, is rising and now stands at about 84% across the whole district and is 98% in some areas. MHDC prioritises its waste management like this: 1. reduce 2. re-use 3. recycle. MHDC is one of only three district councils in England that is consulting on its waste collection – the other two are Hereford and Manchester. Debra commented that whilst the percentage of waste that is recycled is rising, the volume of waste being sent to landfill is also rising. I asked her what was all this stuff that couldn’t be recycled – and she gave the shocking answer that it was unopened, pre-prepared food. I could hardly believe that people could be so silly as to buy and then throw away food, untouched, but it is so.

Debra also explained that at present only limited facilities are available for recycling plastic, which is why we can put only plastic bottles in our clear sacks. By early 2010, a new, much larger and comprehensive, waste management facility will be available

to MHDC, so a greater range of items will be recycled. By that date, MHDC needs to recycle 40% of waste. Plastic and paper waste are currently sorted by hand – so please spare a thought for those kind souls who do this for a living! You might be interested to hear that textiles recycled in those purple sacks are sent to African and Eastern European countries for re-use, where possible, and shredded to make such things as cushion filling and car body insulation panels, where not suitable for re-use.

Michelle Higgins

Pensax Thrift Shop

Thrift Shop closes for the winter on Wed. 3 December, but until then Christmas cards and goodies are on sale in aid of the Air Ambulance, as are Scout stamps and a collecting box for those cards.

Martley & District Horticultural Society

All About Ivy

Linda Eggins from Clent brought an array of ivies for her talk on 30 October. She told us that ivy was common in pre-historic times and is mentioned in Greek mythology. It grows from Northern Norway down to the Mediterranean but some modern varieties come from North America. She has been growing ivies for many years and is quite an authority on them. She described the plant as dimorphic – having two stages to its life. The tendrils have little rootlets

along them which cling to walls or trees as the plant grows up towards the light. Ivy is not a parasite, as it does not take its nutrients from whatever it clings to. As it grows upwards, it changes from its juvenile form, and its leaves change. Linda successfully grows ivy up her fruit tress, but cautioned that it does need to be controlled. If properly cared for, ivy should not damage walls unless the mortar is poor.

Quiz Night

Nine teams competed in the 9 October Quiz Night (under strict RHS rules!), with teams from all round the area. The tie-breaker “When was the mulberry tree introduced into this country?” was posed to Broadwas and Chaddesley Corbett. DO you know the answer? It was 1548, and Broadwas were closest, guessing 1583, and declared winners. We raised £114 for the County Air Ambulance.

Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday 5 December in the Memorial Hall.

Tina Steele.

Martley Fete

Martley Show and Fete was held on 10 August 2008. After payment of out-of-pocket expenses and leaving a small balance in the bank for next year, the Committee were able to distribute £1,000 as follows:

Martley Playing Fields Association £250, Village Hall £250, Tenbury Band £50, St Peter’s Church £100, Martley Pre-School £50, Millennium

Green £100, British Legion £50, Air Cadets, who worked so hard, £50 and the Air Ambulance £100.

Please note that the £1,000 does not include the proceeds from the teas and from the show tent, as these are run independently by the Horticultural Society. The tombola made £458 thanks to your generosity in giving the prizes and then purchasing the tickets! The Grand Draw did better this year, raising a net sum of £180.46, thanks a great deal to the hard work of Nellie Bradley who walked around the field all afternoon selling tickets – not bad for a lady in her eighties – which leads very nicely into reminding you, if we are to have a Fete next year, we need more help, preferably of a younger variety!

Martley Young Farmers

Boreatton Park in Shropshire had the pleasure of Martley YF for three nights. It was a great weekend for all with lots of team building activities. The zipwire and giant swing were probably the favourite, even for a couple of YFs who had tears of fear going up and screams of joy coming down. The challenge course proved to be the muddiest activity with a 15ft underground tunnel that started in a rather large boghole. Once inside there was no turning back, even if the light at the other end somehow managed to disappear by other members filling it with mud. Two members emerged unidentified until the mud was wiped from their eyes, to reveal Stuart Kirby and Ed Bedhall. Hot showers and

warm bedrooms should have had them off to sleep early. Ha, ha! – not MYF! 3am was sleep-time, which they did until 7.30am, except on Sunday which was 6.30am, as the girls forgot to change their watches. Climbing up a pole that seemed to shake made it hard for some YFs to reach the small platform and jump off to the trapeze, and the open canoes on a cold river was asking for trouble with collisions and capsizing. All members returned very wet and cold, but safe and happy. All the Young Farmers had great fun, learnt to support each and laugh at themselves, or Josh Crump. Well done to you all.

Martley Spurs

October was not a bad month on the whole for our boys. The Saturday eleven started on the 4th by winning the first round of the Nursing Cup by beating Upton Town 3-0 but the Sunday side lost to Red Horse in the same competition the next day. The Saturday team had no fixture on the 11th but the Sunday Premier side beat Callow End 5-0 the next morning when Luke Willetts netted a pair. On the same day the Reserves lost to HDNI. The 19th saw the Sunday Premier eleven playing in the first round of the Katherine Rayer Cup when they slammed CMB Sports 6-0. The last weekend of the month was dedicated to more early rounds of all the various cups. In the second round of the Minor Cup the Saturday team beat Three Crowns 2-1 and both the Sunday sides played in these games,

but, unfortunately, I do not have the results. The Spurs will be holding their traditional Christmas raffle; look out from whom to get tickets, where it is to be held and at what time. The Spurs wish you all a merry Christmas.

Beth Williams

Martley Ramblers

There is no walk this month. The dark evenings and the possibility of uncertain weather give an excuse to dry off and dubbin our boots ready for 2009. Watch this space for the new programme.

The walk around Hartlebury Common and Stourport was well attended on a pleasant afternoon. As Neighbourhood Watch had warned against leaving cars unattended on the common for any length of time due to numerous break-ins, the walk started from Vale Road car park. It covered a selection of areas, canal side, riverside, abandoned railway lines, industrial sites and a mobile home park. Oh yes, and of course Hartlebury Common.

Kate King



Martley WI

Heaton House 10 December 7.30pm

Christmas is fast approaching and the speaker this month is Frank Townsend, with “Compliments of the Season”. It sounds intriguing, so come along to find out what it is all about. Visitors are always welcome. The

competition is for a seasonal table arrangement, and refreshments should include Kate and Harry King's famous and excellent punch accompanied by mince pies and other delicious Christmas fare! It has been a busy year with cake stalls, fund raising, outings and various interesting meetings out of the village, so it will be relaxing to sit back and ENJOY.

The talk on worms, wormeries and composting did not at first appear to appeal to everyone, but Sheila Nelson and Aileen Parker soon converted us. Some members (who shall be nameless), were asking about the reproduction techniques of worms and matters got a little out of hand. One never knows what will be discussed at a WI meeting.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

The continuing story of Lane Folk

Surprise, surprise. Two huge lorries, some tarmac and numerous men appeared after five to six weeks and finished the last little bit of surfacing at the top of Hillend Bridge Lane. They have left drains still blocked with unwanted tarmac, discarded signs and the deep gullies further up still unfilled, but we have to be thankful for small mercies.

The replacement lay-by operative had some interesting finds recently - more interesting than usual, in fact. A large number of confidential papers had been thrown into the undergrowth by an employee of the company paid to collect and dispose of them. Some

papers related to an important person who was not pleased when contacted and told of the find. The company concerned say they will tighten up their procedures. What does that mean? Use a different lay-by perhaps?

Kate King

Martley Parish Council

Edited unapproved record of the general meeting of the Martley Parish Council held on Monday 6 October 2008 at the Memorial Hall.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time:

A parishioner reported asking Highways if they would look at the damaged and collapsed verge in Pudford Lane whilst they were working on repairs to Hillend Bridge Lane. The parishioner was advised by the contractors that it was not on their works list. The Clerk will write to Highways, with a copy to Cllr. George Lord, regarding the non-flexibility. Cllr. Lord had previously confirmed with Cllr. Cropp that Parishioners should be able to inform Highways contractors of other work needed in the area. The Clerk will also mention the lack of monitoring of work carried out on the highways in Worcestershire and also speak with CALC (County Association of Local Councils) to see if other parishes have similar concerns and to seek advice. A representative from The Playing Fields Association confirmed that the Martley show is not charged but makes a contribution for using the field each year. The Cricket and Football teams have paid £200.00

each this year to use the field. This figure is reviewed annually. Martley FC Youngsters have yet to pay this year. Over the last 14 months repairs to damage by vandals such as broken seats, fencing, and windows have cost £300. This damage has been reported to the Police but with no response. A tractor has been purchased at a cost of £1100 plus £157 to insure it. Four years ago a mower was purchased for £800.00. The mower has recently cost £93 in repairs. Further costs include: electricity and water £400.00; new swings £197.14; signs £70.50. Martley Parish Council gave a grant to cover the insurance. Dave Bradley, Treasurer, will provide a detailed statement if necessary. The amount of dog fouling around the children's play area has become considerable recently. The Parish Council asked whether the vandalism was covered under their insurance and whether cameras could be put up on the Village Hall to increase security. Councillors asked if a grant had been applied for to install up-to-date play area equipment and if using the field for other income streams such as The Caravan Club, has been considered. The representative will discuss the issues raised with Playing Fields Association then report back to the Parish Council.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 September, 2008:

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

Progress reports:

Response made by Highways to a

recent report was unsatisfactory. Cllr. Cropp will arrange a meeting with Highways to address their response to the report and to the Clerk's letter regarding the lay-by. The Clerk has written to Highways with regard to the poor quality of finish on Horn Lane and Easinghope Lane. The Clerk is to seek further advice from CALC with regard to maintaining the Parish Council's quality status. The Clerk will circulate the Housing Needs Survey and will put it on the agenda it for the next meeting. The tip meeting is still being arranged. MHDC have not yet confirmed the dates for the recycling bag collections. The Clerk is investigating the working from home formulae and raise it at the next meeting. Nora Parsons Day Centre have apologised for stating that Martley Parish Council were not represented at their AGM and have amended their records to show that Cllr. Goodyear attended. Mortlake Drive hedge is to be cut this week. The Lengthsman's invoices will be paid at the next meeting. The Lengthsman has been asked to unblock the grid at Prickley Green. Cllr. Rothwell confirmed in Cllr. Hall's absence that Bryan Hunt had advised that the surveyors had not yet visited and the Pre-School would therefore be grateful if any decisions could be held over to the next meeting. The Clerk will add this to the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr. Cropp reported that he had found bags of invoices from an International company discarded in the layby. The

invoicing company were embarrassed and apologetic and assured him that their representative would be held accountable for fly tipping confidential documents. How the Parish Council can aid the clearing of ditches in Martley was discussed. The Clerk is to make contact with parishioners interested in Smartwater to explain that the packs are £20.00 with a torch. The Clerk will then contact the local representative to ask about the best way of placing the order.

District and County Councillors' reports:

District Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams reported that all councils are to undertake a 'place survey', to prepare for the new assessment framework. The survey will look at how local partnerships are working, to make the area safer, cleaner, and greener, to promote the interests of local residents and to treat people fairly. The first quarterly performance report for MHCD for the year showed there had been strong and improved performance including sustained planning performance, an increase in recycling rates and a 25% reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill. MHCD is continuing to talk to the County and City Councils about partnership working opportunities. Cllr. Williams is to formally invite Chris Bocock, Chief Executive of MHDC, to discuss housing needs within Martley.

Planning:

New: 08/01127/FUL Old House Farm,

Horsham – Ancillary domestic accommodation and storage. 08/01427/FUL Jury Cottage, Jury Lane – First floor extn. over existing flat roofed extn. Pending: 08/01095/FUL Treetops Bungalow, Hillside – Proposed replacement of existing dwelling. 08/01089/FUL Jubilee Cottage, Kingswood – Proposed outbuilding. Permitted: 08/01093/FUL The Noak, Martley – Extend driveway to form a new entrance/exit. Refused: 08/01023/LBC&08/01022/FUL Lingens Farm, Barbers Lane – Conversion of coach house & stable block to general office and dwellings for rent. Footpaths: Cllr. Cropp had discussed a diversion over MT668 and MT670 (part) and a creation order MT831 with the Path-or-Nones. The Path-or-Nones had reported the changes as a move forward and therefore both changes are supported by the Parish Council. The applications have been made by Wickens Farm.

Finance:

It was resolved to adopt the accounts. The Council agreed to meet the invoice of £46.84. for hall electricity. A quote is to be obtained for Landowners Support. The cheque for Nathan Plant for the Pre-School boiler was agreed and signed. The Council agreed to make a payment to Royal British Legion for the same total as last year.

Correspondence:

Discussion is needed about correspondence relating to BTs "Adopt a kiosk" scheme.

Councillor's reports and items for future agenda:

Wichenford's Clerk has written to the owners at Laugherne Hill several times regarding the overgrown hedgerow but has not yet had a response. Cllr. Rothwell reported that the most recent YIMMS event went well. The next event will be in April 2009. Cllr. Rothwell approached the Parish Council regarding funding The Chantry High School to buy a skate ramp but the Council refused for reasons such as secure storage, transporting the ramp and insurance. The Council felt The Chantry should take full ownership and The Parish Council could hire it from them for YIMMS events. There is a large hole in St. Peters Drive and the Clerk is will report the damage. Cllr. Rothwell is to Chair the Martley PACT meetings in the future. There have been 3 incidents recently of children nearly being knocked off their bikes on the Mortlake Drive and St. Peters junction. Cllr. Rothwell will report this at the next PACT meeting. The Clerk will report to the Lengthsman and to Highways that there is water running over the road in the dip towards the bottom of Prickly Green Lane.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be Monday 3 November 2008.

For Addendum 1, "Focussing on 'Place", please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council or see the parish Council page of www.martley.org.uk

Martley's Past

Just a few extracts from Boys School records for December 1863.

1st. Examined the school according to the RC. Very wet day. Duty 9 to 12.10 and 1.30 to 4.15.

2nd. Boys attended a Juvenile Missionary Meeting in the Girls' School. Stories read by Miss Hastings 12 to 12.30. Home lessons of second class 4 to 4.30.

4th. Rev H J Hastings gave Liturgical lesson to 1st Class 9.30 to 10.10. Several boys unwell with colds. Duty 9 to 12.15. Very dull day, at 3.30 too dark for reading or writing lesson. Heard home lessons 3.30 to 4.

8th. The Rev J Fox of Doddenham parish called to pay for the education of children from his parish. Duty 9 to 12.10. Completed hearing home lessons 4 to 4.20 with explanations.

11th. Very dark morning – thin attendance at prayers. The Rev C B Rowland (curate) gave Scripture lesson to 1st class 9.20 to 10.10. Practised First and Second classes together in Notation.

14th. Thinner attendance than usual – some boys nursing babies (!!) – others unwell from colds.

17th. A boy returned to school who had left service (J Birch).

21st. George Benbow left school. Attended church in the morning to 11.20. Thinner attendance at school – the boys going about for charities.

24th (Christmas Eve!). The Rev H J Hastings examined the school in the presence of James Nash Esq MD, and one of the Trustees and Treasurer.

Prizes were awarded to the best attendance of the year and also to each class to the most proficient in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. 43 present. Holiday in afternoon (!!)

Alan Boon

Christmas Activities

Nora Parsons Day Centre

Christmas Fayre

Monday 8 December

at 2.00 pm in the Centre at Venn Lane, Wichenford.

We look forward to seeing you all again this year!

Carols in church and in pubs!

For details of Christmas services and carolling events see page 27

Worcestershire Association of Carers

“Deck the Halls”: a family Christmas Concert of readings, carols and music

Huntingdon Hall, Deansway, Worcester

7.30pm 5 December 2008

Tickets £10

Box Office 01905 26500

WAoC 01905 611427

“My mother-in-law has gone to the West Indies”

“Jamaica?”

“No – she decided to go by herself.”
BOOM BOOM (*The old ones are the best ones! Ed.*)

Mobile Library

Ockeridge	Silver Oaks 9.45 – 10.05
Wichenford	Malvern View 10.10 – 10.35
	Church 10.45 – 11.05
	Kings Green Farm 11.15 – 11.40
	Rosses Green 11.45 – 12.05
Martley	Horn Lane Bungalows 12.10 – 12.25
Hillside	
Martley	Taylor's of Martley 12.30 – 12.45
LUNCH	
	Heaton House 1.20 – 1.50
	Church. 1.55 – 2.15
Clifton	Village Hall 2.30 – 3.50

The Mobile Library will be visiting these stops on Wednesdays on the dates listed below:

17 Dec 2008	15 July 2009
7 January 2009	5 August 2009
28 January 2009	26 August 2009
18 February 2009	16 Sept 2009
11 March 2009	7 Oct 2009
1 April 2009	28 October 2009
22 April 2009	18 Nov 2009
13 May 2009	9 Dec 2009
3 June 2009	30 Dec 2009
24 June 2009	

Any enquiries should be made to Stourport Library, Worcester Street, Stourport, Worcs DY13 8EH, tel: 01299 822866
stourportmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



Church Flowers

7 December Advent – no flowers

14 December Christmas decorations

21 December Christmas decorations

28 December Mrs C Weatherall

Mrs Britten is hoping to give up arranging the altar flowers for festivals, something that she has done for many, many years. We would like to express our grateful thanks for her time and effort in carrying out this pleasant task. However, we are now looking for somebody who would like to carry out this job. It is only three times a year for major festivals - Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and is an enjoyable and pleasant task. Please contact Mrs Pam Webb or Mrs Barbara Whyatt if you are interested.

Wichenford 100 Club

October winners: No 130 R Fewtrell £75 and returned subscriptions of £12.00 to 117 D Jinks & 139 Mrs Catmur Drawn by Bob Whyatt

This month's pot is smaller than usual, as we still unfortunately have quite a few members who have not yet renewed their subscriptions. We had

to ignore one of the numbers drawn this month, as the subscription had not been received. You may have been the one to lose out! Letters with return-address labels have been left at addresses where known, but we do have a couple of members who cannot be traced. so if you hold a number and you haven't renewed, please contact Heather Rendall on 888239 New members are very welcome. Phone if you would like to join. The more members, the more in the pot and the more there is to win!

News from Nora Parsons ***Day Centre***

Antiques Roadshow

Everyone involved with the Day Centre would like to thank Henry Sandon and his wife Barbara for giving their time to hold an "Antiques Roadshow" in Martley Memorial Hall on 24 October. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all who attended. Henry and his wife gave their time at no charge in order that funds could be raised to enable the Day Centre to keep operating. Thanks to everyone

who donated raffle prizes – they were very much appreciated.

Christmas Fayre

On Monday 8 December the Day Centre will hold their usual Christmas Fayre at 2.00 pm in the Centre at Venn Lane, Wichenford. It was wonderfully supported last year by local people and we look forward to seeing you all again this year for an even better event.

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship Christmas meeting will be held one afternoon in the third week of December at 2pm.

Wichenford Harvest Supper

The Wichenford Village harvest supper was once again a full house. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and our thanks are due to our super cooks and to the many people who helped in countless different way. The delightful entertainment pleased all present and completed a very happy evening. The raffle held during the evening raised a record total of £216 for church funds with profit from the bar going to the Memorial Hall Improvement Fund. Our very grateful thanks to all who gave prizes and to everyone who supported us so generously.

Pam Webb and Jane Stanley



Congratulations!

Those of us who remembered Kerren Garret from her childhood were so

pleased that she chose Wichenford Church to come back to for her Wedding on 1 November. We her and Andrew a long and happy married life together.

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20 October 2008 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

District and County Councillor's Report

District Councillor B Williams reported that joint working with the city council was still on the agenda and remains a key element of Medium Term Financial Plan. Although they are no longer pursuing a close working relationship with Worcester City, they are continuing to talk to county and city with regards to possible partnership working opportunities as savings do need to be made. The SWJCS preferred options paper has been published and we are in the six-week consultation process. The response has been good to date.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2008 were accepted and signed as a true record.

Progress Reports

Litter Pick: Several people turned up and about 10 bags of litter (mainly drinks cans) were collected. The chairman agreed to write a letter of thanks to all those who turned out. It was agreed to do it again next year

when the grass is shorter, as a lot of rubbish was hidden in the long grass.

Motor Cross: It seems that bikes are practicing every Saturday. The Parish Council will inform Malvern Hills when the number of practices gets to ten as only 14 practice days are allowed.

Planning

A letter of objection from the Kenswick Manor estate regarding the TPO (number 430) was read out. The Parish Council agreed that nothing can be done now that a TPO is on and any work that is needed to the trees requires planning permission.

Applications considered since the last meeting. 08/01306/Ful Change of use of land to garden and retention of new driveway for Coronation Cottage. As this was retrospective the parish council had no comments to make. Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn. 08/01116/FUL. Proposed extn to Masons Arms. (Refused). 08/00172/FUL – 00173/LBC Woodhall Farm. Demolition of modern farm buildings and conversion of modern farm buildings. (Approved) Application Number 08/00461/AGR has been visited by the enforcement officer and given notice to leave. Both the Parish Council and District Councillor have concerns over land being sold in small plots as we will see more stables, sheds, caravans etc in separate plots blotting the landscape.

Finance

The current balance from 30 August to 30 September stands at £18,526.74. Of

this £324 belongs to the Pathfinders Scheme; £1,247 is held on account for the NPDC and £2,336 was received for notice boards from the lottery funding. Since the last meeting a cheque for £2,360.24 was written for the notice boards. The acceptance of the finances was resolved. Memorial Hall Donation and Millennium Green Donation - the Parish Council will ask these Committees for a copy of their accounts before any donation is decided. WRVS. No donation is to be given to this organisation as the Parish Council would prefer to give donations to local organisations.

NPDC

The roof has been repaired to a cost of £11,000. The dilapidations list is slowly being worked through.

RSS/SWJCS

Councillor Panton attended meetings at The Swan, Foley Arms, Powick and Martley. People are very angry at the proposed 1,200 houses at Newlands. We have until 8 December to respond on the RSS. The SWJCS is local councils. It looks as though overall 24,000 houses are proposed but if option 3 is adopted it would mean an extra 5,000. The chairman attended a meeting on this subject at Hindlip Hall and found the villages are already categorised. Martley, Broadheath, Hallow and Great Witley are category 1 and far more likely to be scheduled for development. Although Wichenford is not categorized, it will still be affected as it is surrounded by these villages. The Parish Council are going to respond to the preferred

options paper stating that Infrastructure is more important than anything else and existing infrastructure needs to be eased first.

Councillor's Reports and Items For Future Agendas

It was suggested that a notice board should be placed at Boxley Corner. The parish council did not feel that this would be viable for the amount of passing traffic. The Clerk was asked to clarify with the Highways Department what the procedure is regarding salt and salt boxes - how often are they filled, and who can spread the salt. There are several blocked drains that need reporting.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 24 November 2008 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford at 7.30pm.



Interested in history and heritage?

Treat family and friends to a great day out in the Teme Valley - give them a *Stories from the Stones* Heritage Audio CD for Christmas. There are now three to choose from:

1. **More to Explore in the Teme Valley.** A Food and Heritage Car Trail from Worcester to Tenbury Wells. £7.50

2. **Parish Heritage Walks 1.** Heritage walks in the villages of Cotheridge, Broadwas-on-Teme and Martley. £7.50

3. **Parish Heritage Walks 2.** Heritage walks in the villages of Shelsley

Walsh, Stockton-on-Teme and Lindridge. £7.50

Narrated by a professional actor, Rob Swinton, each heritage CD includes full route directions and fascinating local information—it's rather like having a personal guide to a beautiful and little-known area! The car trail passes through the tiny villages of Cotheridge, Broadwas-on-Teme, Martley, Shelsley Walsh, Stockton-on-Teme and Lindridge. In the villages, leave the car and enjoy a short Heritage Walk. They are circular and start in the village church. These ancient buildings mostly date from Norman times - if the walls could speak, what stories they would tell! Today, inside each church there is an audio listening post full of stories and information about the church and its parish over the centuries.

Mail order your audio CDs from:

Go West Teme Valley Project The Old Vicarage, Stoulton, Worcester. WR7 4RE

Please include your name and delivery address and make cheques payable to *Go West*

The CDs are outputs of our *Stories from the Stones* project from the Go West Teme Valley Project. They were researched produced by volunteers from communities in the Teme Valley.

*Sandy Marchant
for the*

*Go West Teme Valley Project
Management Group*

“Just like all the Fighter Pilots ...”

Helen Pargeter remembered that The Villager had published congratulations to her son, Flt. Lt. Richard Pargeter, on his graduation from his initial training. Tornado F3 Pilot Flt. Lt. Pargeter has continued his pilot training and has written about his recent experiences on a Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) mission, for an RAF publication. The Villager is pleased to be able to bring you an edited extract from his writing.

“Dan’s leg restraints clang as he walks down the corridor. I look at my watch and it is 3.30am. Tonight has turned from excitement to tedium; two Tu-95 Bear aircraft had been detected on the radar off the North coast of Norway and were now somewhere else over the North Atlantic trying to hide below radar cover. We’ve been up almost all night on false alarms that the Russian bombers were coming towards the UK, but still no contact. And now we’re up again, fully dressed in our goon bags (submersion suits). I make everyone a cup of tea and sit in one of the armchairs, exhausted. Sitting, I realise I’m as happy as I’ve ever been—the junior pilot on 111(F) Squadron, my second time on Q; and here I am, just like all the fighter pilots of years gone by, tired and waiting. Things are turning back to excitement as the secure communications link scratches into life: SCRAMBLE!

“Within minutes I’m airborne and heading to a CAP (combat air patrol) over the Western Isles of Scotland to show our presence, two Tornado F3s – fully ‘tooled-up’. We wait, we tank in the dark, we wait again on CAP. I notice a fuel asymmetry problem and think we might have to return to base but it’s OK, problem sorted. My second tanking, just as day breaks, and the ground controller seems to be irate. With our radar off during the tanking we are blind and are trying to build a mental picture. They’re close and as soon as I unplug I get tally-ho even before the radar gets them, seven miles north; a pair of them, one above the other. OK, we’ve now got nine tonnes of gas to use so I put in the burners and start the chase. My Weapon Systems Officer is giving excellent service but somehow I still over-cook the join and have to ‘wash-off’ a lot of speed, and at 28,000ft (8,534m) there is not much air to slow you down. I have to use airbrake, manoeuvre flaps, but somehow I just stop solidly on the trail-man’s wing – perfect – it didn’t surprise him, but it definitely surprised me!

“This is it then. My five years training has peaked at this, defending the integrity of the UK’s airspace. But it’s not quite worth all the hype. This is not a shooting war with dogfights – the worst-case scenario that my training has geared me up for. This is flying on the wing of a non-hostile aircraft, reporting its disposition back to ground control. I feel that anyone could do this – but I wouldn’t change it for anything. We wave to the Russian aircrew and they wave back – I’m sure they feel the same, glad to be in the company of other aviators somewhere over the North Atlantic. There is a common bond and I’d like to buy the crew a beer for this opportunity to do my job.”

Have a GREEN Christmas!
Reduce, re-use and RECYCLE! Here
is The Villager's list of tips.

Compost kitchen scraps like vegetable and fruit peelings, teabags, coffee grounds and coffee filters, faded flowers, citrus peel, eggshells and eggboxes. Mix pastry trimmings, left over biscuits, and small amounts of stale (but not mouldy) bread, with fat to make bird cake. Never feed salted nuts to birds.

Reserve the best pieces of Christmas wrapping paper to use next year - it saves trees! Some wrapping paper can be put out for paper recycling collection, or even composted. The same goes for kitchen paper, and cardboard packaging. Try to avoid plastic or foil wrapping paper as most cannot be recycled.

Recycle old Christmas cards. Take your Christmas tree to a recycling centre after Christmas. About a third of the food we buy gets thrown away so don't buy more food than you know you can use. Create new dishes from leftovers.

Visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for inspiration! Recycle unwanted gifts via www.freecycle.co.uk or local charity shops. Decorating before Christmas? Don't throw away leftover paint, donate it to www.communityrepaint.org.uk. To find out what else you can recycle, go to www.recyclenow.com. Hallow

Recycling Centre can now recycle Tetra Paks (fruit juice and milk cartons). Recycling can sometimes be confusing, but you can find out how to recycle different materials and how to go about it with a product-by-product guide on www.bbcgreen.com

If you make only one New Year's Resolution, make it that you will try and

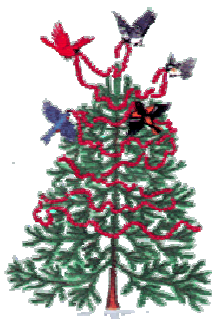
grow your own salad leaves in 2009. If you do, you'll never want to eat the plastic wrapped version ever again (which is often washed in chlorine to disinfect it)!

Want to give a long-lasting, valuable gift this year? Treat yourself or a family member or friend to a new compost bin! There are different types to suit all households, from Bokashi systems and wormeries, to the plastic "dalek" types. Bokashi works by "pickling" kitchen waste in a sealed bucket. After a short while, the contents can be added to a conventional compost bin, or dug directly into the soil. Wormeries are great if you only produce small amounts of kitchen waste, as they never produce large amounts of compost. Wormeries use tigerworms, a special type of earthworm, that munch their way through fruit and vegetable scraps, waste paper and cardboard. They will even eat leftover cooked vegetables (sprouts!). I've had mine for years and wouldn't be without it.

The rich wormcasts produced are wonderful as top dressing for pot plants. Wooden compost bins are ideal for larger gardens. Some are designed for the simple addition of extra bins. If you have an average-sized garden, or are new to composting, then the recycled plastic bins sold by the Council would be a perfect choice.

You might think Christmas a strange time to be talking about composting, but with the extra food preparation that Christmas generates, it is the perfect time to begin doing your bit to reduce the amount of kitchen and garden waste that is sent to landfill. In a year you will have wonderful, free, compost, to help make your garden the envy of your neighbours!

AH





Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Christmas presents - have you bought them all yet? Is there still that one to get? Once wrapped, they hide a surprise awaiting its recipient: a gift specially chosen. Once given, it is a gift to be unwrapped, all become eager children who cannot wait to see what is inside, tearing off the wrapping to release the gift within, and then enjoying the gift for all its worth. If we unwrap Christmas what do we find? What lies behind the tinsel and lights, the presents and food?

As I unwrap the first layer there is a sense of hope that the immortal words of 'Peace on Earth', said by the angels, would be a reality. Peace internationally, peace in our own land peace within families. It's an important part of the message of Christmas for us to discover.

What about the next layer? An expectation, a hope of better things to come - it was always the hope of the Jewish nation, and still is, that a Messiah; a saviour figure, would come and rescue them from their woes and troubles. It has been one of those years when we have certainly suffered anxiety. Maybe you are still reeling from the effects of the credit crunch and financial crises the world has

suffered. You need some hope for the future. The American elections showed how much people laid their hope in an individual. The message of Christmas is that there is a saviour a Messiah who has come. There is one who came to be such for us: Jesus.

Which brings me to my final unwrapping: Jesus - the present of all presents to us, given to us in love. Whatever we may have done to Christmas over the years, however it may have changed, Jesus remains the same. The babe

born in Bethlehem brings an innocence, love and joy that any child brings. Last Christmas we looked forward to, and celebrated, the birth of our grandson. What joy and love he brought as he was born in the New Year. He has changed the lives of our daughter and son-in-law, and ours. How much more will the Christ child, Jesus, change our lives as he becomes part of our family, bringing peace, bringing hope, bringing joy bringing the love of God to us? You do not need a large family to appreciate that we are all part of the family of God. As you unwrap the Christmas gift of heaven, may you find peace, hope, love and joy this Christmas and in the year to come.

God Bless you all

Rev David Sherwin



Mon 1 Dec 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
 Tue 2 Dec 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 Wed 3 Dec 10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
 Thu 4 Dec 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Sun 7 Dec 8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel
 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
 10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 12 Noon Baptism, St Laurence, Wichenford
 4.00pm Family Worship Christingle Service, St Peter, Martley
 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
 Mon 8 Dec 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at the home of Rev'd Jennifer Whittaker
 6.30pm Martley Primary School Carol Service, St Peter, Martley
 Tue 9 Dec 10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 Wed 10 Dec 10.15 Holy Communion, Heaton House
 7.30pm Chantry High School Carol Service, St Peter, Martley
 Thu 11 Dec 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
 1.00pm Little Minnows Christmas Special, St Peter, Martley
Sun 14 Dec 8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
 10.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
 10.30am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 4.00pm FamilyWorship **Christingle** Service, St Laurence, Wichenford
 Mon 15 Dec 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
 Tue 16 Dec 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 Wed 17 Dec 10.15am Holy Communion with Carols, Heaton House
 Thu 18 Dec 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
 9.00am Broadwas Primary School Carol Service, St Mary Magdalene
 Fri 19 Dec 8pm onwards, Carols at The Masons, Wichenford
Sun 21 Dec 8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
 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 22 Dec 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
 8.00pm onwards Carols at The Admiral Rodney
 Tue 23 Dec 10.00 Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Christmas Eve Wed 24 December
 4.00pm Crib Service, St Laurence, Wichenford
 5.00pm Crib Service, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 10.00pm Christmas Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
 11.30pm Christmas Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
 11.30pm Christmas Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Christmas Day, Thu 25 December
 9.00am Christmas Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
 11.00am Christmas Family Worship, St Peter, Martley
Sun 28 Dec 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford





Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Michelle Higgins editor@martley.org or 01886 888344 or leave articles at Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Aileen Parker. Contact 01886 888456
Church	<i>Rector:</i> Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 or davidwin56@aol.com <i>Curate:</i> Revd Bruce Thomson—01886 888098 <i>Assistant Priest:</i> Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Parish Council	<i>Chair:</i> Dave Cropp—01886 888398; <i>Clerk:</i> Sally Williams—01299 832949
Martley WI	<i>President:</i> Gwynne Darby—01886 888490
Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Martley Young Farmers	Lou Wickens—01886-812754 or Caroline Bullock—01905-333617
Path-or-Nones	John Nicklin—01886 888318 johnn@martley.org
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Police “Surgery”	CSO Matt Smith 7184—Martley Local Policing Team Tenbury Wells Police Station extn. 3581
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org
Martley Web Mesh	Richard Jackman—01886 821237 richard@martley.org John Layton—01886888460 johnl@martley.org Tom Pearsall—01886 888256 tom@martley.org
Martley Pre-School	Kath/Lucy—01886 889127 www.martleypreschool.co.uk
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303 or Sheila Richards—01886 888378
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431

To have your organisation and its contact details appear on this list, or to change the details shown here, email editor@martley.org or leave a note for the editor at Martley Post Office.

***For the second year back by
popular demand...***

Burns Supper

An opportunity to get together to celebrate life and works of Robert Burns, Scotland's finest poet. This event went well last year--all the tickets were sold-- and some money was distributed afterwards to good causes.

**Friday 23 January 2009
Wichenford Memorial Hall, Venn
Lane Wichenford
7:30pm for 8pm**

**Tickets £16.50 per head. Cash bar.
All Welcome.**

**Please wear tartan on the night or
dress to kill!**

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

*Around 60 tickets will be sold so please
book tickets soon to avoid missing out.
The meal will be provided by Dawe
Catering of Pershore.*

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

This is an event arranged by the local Church of England churches for the whole community. Any profit from the event will go to a local charity.

