

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 20 No. 7

December 2010

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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 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 Toddler Group:** 1st and 3rd  
Tuesdays (term time) 10.30am 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 p. 27 for details of services

See articles for details of special events AND changes of time/date/venue of regular events

See the Diary page on [www.martley.org.uk](http://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

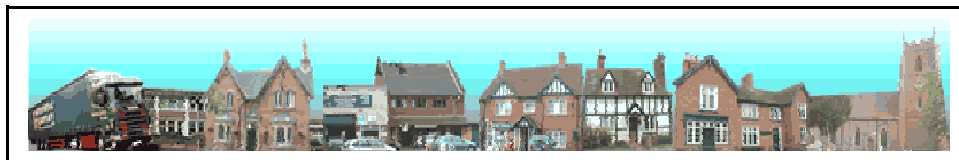
*Articles to go in The Villager must be submitted by the 1st of the previous month*



*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](http://www.martley.org.uk)



## ***Martley Amateur Dramatics***

Martley Amateur Dramatics would like to wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and hope that you will round off the festivities with a visit to our pantomime “Dick Whittington and the Doctor” which will be performed in Martley Village Hall 7 and 8 January, with a matinee on the 8<sup>th</sup>. We



are sure that you won't be disappointed so come along and cheer and boo! Tickets available as usual from the village shops and The Admiral Rodney.

## ***Village Hall News***

All's quiet at the VH with the committee trying to get its accounts and maintenance issues in order. We are trying to encourage more use of the hall during the day time, so if

anyone has any ideas please let us know. Perhaps even local companies needing extra space for a meeting or presentation would be welcome? So if you are thinking of holding a function be it for fun, family or formal, please remember we have lots of room and facilities available in the VH so save the wear and tear of your own home as well. Give us a call and I'm sure we can accommodate most events.

The VH Christmas Fayre will be held in the hall on Sunday 5 December starting at 1.30pm so please come along and buy some of those early Christmas presents.



The management committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the village hall and wish you all a safe and warm Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

## **Martley 100 Club**

October winner is Mrs Sally Swift (number 54) and wins another £40. Sally Swift also won back in March - it does seem bizarre, as many of you

who win do win again once your number has been drawn. I am organising the 2011 Martley 100 Club so please do remember to return your renewal forms to me or download the application form from the Martley.org.uk website.

*Annette Smith*

### ***Pensax Thrift Shop***

Pensax Thrift Shop will be closing for the winter break on Wednesday 8 December at 11 a.m. Please can you make sure that you have collected your unsold items and any monies before that date. It re-opens at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 2 March 2011. For any information regarding Thrift Shop phone 01299 832388.

### ***What's in Your Family Tree?***

We moved to Worcester in July 2008 having farmed in Wales for 15 years, though we were both born in Oldham, and having married in Buxton, raised four sons in the process. Our interesting life, and thinking of our life's journey, made us wonder how and why and where our ancestors lived and brought up their own families. I am a landowner in Wichenford and have researched its history. I have also researched my paternal family tree and found I am related to the Hollidays who managed the Admiral Rodney, Berrow Green, in the 1850's although my line lived in Northampton.

Both my husband and I have found out many interesting and unexpected things about our roots and confirmed

or dispelled many family legends. We are very passionate about family history and have helped many friends to get started with their own trees. There is much information, help and advice on the internet and in local record office archives, but finding the time to do your own research is probably the one thing that many busy people don't have much of, so we have started to offer a service to would-be researchers. Our rates are reasonable and as everyone's family story will unfold differently the amount of research needed will differ from one client to the next. There is so much to discover that once bitten by the bug of family history, it's very hard to stop wanting to find out more. You can contact me on 07517 222334 or 01905 333335 or at [crabtreetree@btinternet.com](mailto:crabtreetree@btinternet.com)

*Karol Crabtree*



### **Christmas In The Teme Valley**

Christmas is a magical time of year, especially for children. This festive time gives families an opportunity to spend time together and gives families the chance to experience activities and special events that they may not normally do. Come and join Teme Valley Children's Centre for some wonderful Christmas themed events during the festive period for families to take part in.

*Thursday 16 December 2010*

Village Hall Committee Christmas Prize Draw: The draw will be made at 11am. 1st prize is £60 Argos voucher. 2nd prize Christmas hamper. 3rd a meal for two at The Lion plus many other prizes. Tickets are 50p each and the proceeds go to the village hall funds

*Monday 20 December 2010*

Christmas Family Fun (Venue To Be Confirmed). Come and join us for a Christmas themed Family Fun.

*Wednesday 22 December 2010*

Christmas Walk At Worcestershire Countryside Centre. Come and join us for our family walk around the Countryside Centre following Santa's trail.

Keep a look out for all of our usual posters and flyers advertising our Christmas events, venues and times. Or you can contact the Children's Centre office on 01886 812982 or [sam.billingham@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:sam.billingham@barnardos.org.uk) for more information!

On behalf of the Children's Centre may we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for all of your help and support over the last year.



## ***Congratulations***

Margaret and Ray Rushgrove are proud to announce the birth of their sixth grandchild. Thomas Harry was born on 11.10.10. His parents are Justin and Vanessa and he is a baby brother to William.



***Martley WI***

**Wednesday 8 December  
7.30pm Heaton House**

The AGM is over and the committee will be guiding us along the right lines in 2011. We are all looking forward to the new programme. This month is 'Party Time', so we are making our own entertainment with no speaker. Who knows what the evening will bring forth? The competition is for a Christmas Table Decoration or fancy Serviette Ring (made by yourself of course), and we shall be eating and drinking party fare. Visitors are always welcome to join in. After our successful celebration of Christmas in Martley church last year when members of the Elgar Group supported us, this year Whitbourne WI are arranging a celebration in their church at 3pm on Saturday 4 December. It will be interesting to see what form their celebration will take.

*Kate King*

## ***Pudford Tweets***

Thank goodness the drier autumn so far has meant fewer puddles and streams running down the lane. Fingers crossed the Pudford Glacier won't appear later.

Congratulations to Jane and Michael Froggatt on becoming grandparents with the safe arrival of Georgia. We hope they have many happy years of enjoyment with her.

Having enjoyed the excellent presentation by Brian Draper of "Elgar Country" we are hoping we shall not see the ghost of Edward Elgar riding his trusty bicycle, Mr Pheobus, in the lane on a dark night. Some of the area names in the lane are most intriguing. The steep slope just before the entrance to Pudford Lane appears to be called Dedknoll. Can't find the origin of this name. Does it go back to Domesday when Pudda's Ford Farm belonged to Drogo Fitzpoyntz?

*Kate King*



## ***A word from your local policing team***

When I first discovered I was getting a posting with the Martley local policing team, I was absolutely delighted! My impressions of Martley had always

been one of a low crime community, situated in beautiful Worcestershire. So far, I'm glad to say that I was right! Having held a police surgery and done a few foot patrols, the vast majority of locals I've met are very happy and love living in Martley. I think some people would be surprised just how large the Martley policing patch is. It actually covers many villages including Abberley, Great Witley, Wichenford, Hallow, Dunley, Astley... and a few more! Of course I do not patrol this area on my own. You have your own Local Policing Officer, Andy Hood, whom many of you already know.

PC Hood is a very experienced officer with 18 years of service, having also worked as a response officer and in CID before local policing. As for myself, I worked in police custody before being a CSO and wrote children's books. I still write as a hobby and play the French horn, but talking is my greatest pass-time! So if you see either me or Andy out and about, come and speak to us. Tell us your policing issues and we can all work together to keep Martley a happy, safe community to live and work in.

*CSO Cooper 40061*

*[helen.cooper@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:helen.cooper@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)*

*0300 333 3000 ext.3581.*

## ***Thank you***

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who signed my petition. However, as everyone will be aware, the licence was granted to

Central Stores. I approached Mr Gosling when the sign for the application went up and was told I had to take my parking signs down. I offered Mr Gosling a solution to his parking problem but, unfortunately, he declined. Therefore I am really sorry but, to protect my business so that we do not lose the Post Office, my parking restrictions will have to stay enforced; that also includes Sundays. I am really sorry if this inconveniences people, but I suggest you take up Central Garages parking problems with Mr Gosling, and not myself or my staff. Thank you.

*Mary*



### **Martley and District Horticultural Society**

Eight teams entered the Quiz held at Martley Memorial Hall on 14 October. Chairman, Mike Dunnett, acted as Quizmaster and Dave Cropp scorer. The evening was sponsored by Webbs of Wychbold and any profits are destined for the Air Ambulance. Martley's team was Pat Finch, Mary Walker, Jane Cropp and Sue Curren, and after many quite tricky questions on various aspects of gardening, the result was as follows 1<sup>st</sup> Broadwas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chaddesly Corbett, 3<sup>rd</sup> Martley. Tasty refreshments were served making it a sustaining and educational evening

On 28 October we had a record attendance! First, Mike Dunnett showed the winter colour shrubs in pots, Coprosma Fireburst and Coprosma Evening Glow, not too hardy (from New Zealand), the colour deepens with the cold but move to the greenhouse or cover with fleece and keep in pots. They could grow to 6ft if allowed. Dave Cropp gave a good tip—cut your holly for Christmas before the birds devour all the berries! Members then enjoyed a talk by Brian Draper MBE who had brought slides to illustrate 'Elgar's Countryside'. Brian is much in demand as a speaker as he has great knowledge of Worcestershire and its surrounding counties, the rivers, wildlife, churches, cathedrals, towns and villages—and of course history. He had obviously taken a lot of trouble to study the life of Sir Edward Elgar—he was a Roman Catholic (and a Wolves supporter!), a keen fisherman and cyclist, who visited many places of interest 'between the three cathedrals' and also knew quite a few pubs! As a boy he travelled about with his father tuning pianos, and would observe birds, flowers and the beautiful views of the Malvern Hills—no wonder he later wrote such superb music. He enjoyed a glass of perry, and a smoke! Brian's slides fitted the talk perfectly, he earned high praise from his audience and "it's the way he puts it over", as our Chairman said. Members' Christmas Dinner is on Friday 3 December.

*Tina Steele*

### ***Martley Ramblers***

No rambling this month as the weather can be unfriendly and paths muddy and dangerous. So, it's time to check on your waterproofs and give you boots a treatment with preservative. Maybe that will be a way of ensuring good weather for 2011. The new programme will be available in January; members will get it posted and copies are always available from the secretary. A word of caution: don't



celebrate too well during the festive season and get too much out of condition before January!

*Kate King*

### ***Using Public Rights of Way***

I have unfortunately received several reports about a particular dog owner, in the Callow Farm area, who pays no attention at all to the routes of rights of way, or to the interests of farmers and land users. When challenged, he is shall we say, 'difficult'.

The Path-or-Nones have managed Martley's footpaths for 20 years and in that time have gone to a great deal of trouble to respect the rights of all land-users—farmers and walkers alike. It is true to say that a real, constructive partnership has developed, where the interests of both groups are respected to the benefit of each. It is therefore very unhelpful indeed, particularly from those who actually live in the parish, if some selfishly 'do their own thing' in our countryside.

I could conclude by saying 'stop it' but I won't. Instead I will suggest that whoever you are, why don't you join us and help to take our 20 years into the future?

*JSN*

### ***The Burns Night Supper***

Following the success of last year's event at Martley Village Hall, which was sold out, the Burns Supper Committee are proposing to stay at Martley for the 2011 event. The Burns Night Supper will be held on Friday 28 January 2011. Full details of this event will be available in the January issue of *The Villager* but in the meantime if you would like to pre-book your tickets please contact: Sheila Richards Tel 01886 888378 or James Hyslop Tel 01886 888359

### ***Martley Parish Council***

Unapproved edited draft record of the meeting held on Monday 4 October 2010 at the Memorial Hall

#### **The Democratic Period/Public Question Time**

A parishioner presented the Chairman with a letter and requested that it be read under planning for Penny Patch, Hillside. There were no other requests or comments made.

#### **Minutes:**

The minutes for the previous Parish Council meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting with two corrections to 65-10 and 66-10(a). The planning application for Fair View, Pudford Lane was withdrawn by the applicant and was not permitted. The

accounts considered at the last meeting were for August not September.

**Outstanding actions from previous minutes:**

Milestone plate—The Clerk is to contact the milestone association and Clifton Parish Council, who have recently had some work carried out on their milestone. Highways—The Clerk is to submit a report to Highways about the dropped curbs, potholes, drains, etc that have been reported. The Clerk clarified outstanding jobs with Councillors. The Clerk will continue to investigate the authorisation of cycle races. The Clerk will contact the housing association regarding work needed to the site where the tree fell by Heaton House. The Clerk confirmed that an outdoor smart water pack will be ordered for use on the play area and Councillor Metcalfe will contact the police to discuss reinvigoration of the Local Youth Forum.

**Progress Reports:**

(a) The Clerk. Has received an e-mail from Highways confirming that since the Hillside sign is functional and visible and is neither a safety issue nor offensive, the graffiti will be dealt with on the next routine inspection, which can be up to 12 months. Has written to Martley Recreation Association, SPORT Martley and YIMMS requesting updates, future meetings, etc. Has established that both MHDC and WCC are adamant that the herbicide spraying is not linked to them, and will continue to

investigate. Responded to CALC stating that the need for the capping of the precept was understood. Confirmed that the Parish Council should not be directly consulted when a license to serve alcohol in their parish is applied for. Confirmed that MHDC Waste Manager has met with the resident from Callow Farm who had e-mailed.

(b) Lengthsman. The Clerk will ask the lengthsman to concentrate on the corner of Hillside by Sunrise Cottage and clear the grip by the sawmills.

(c) Training. Cllrs. Fearnough and Clarke will form the Clerk's Finance Committee as neither is a registered signatory. The Clerk will have delegated power in terms of urgent decisions and planning will be addressed by full council. The Clerk will amend the standing orders and contract as appropriate, for authorisation. The Clerk will update signatories on the Lloyds account.

**District and County Councillor's reports:**

District Cllr Williams reported that while violent extremism is not something most would associate with the Malvern Hills district, it can happen anywhere. As a council, MHDC have a duty to ensure the safety of our local communities. MHDC supports the PREVENT strategy by being vigilant and working with partners to identify potential concerns for violent extremism. "Big Society" was the buzz term during the recent elections, but what does it mean for the council? The aim of Big

Society is to build strong communities that take more responsibility for their local area and ensure that needs are met, such as helping people gain skills, feel empowered, feel proud, and have control over their health and welfare. We have been working towards this for some years: emergency flood teams are manned by volunteers; and we support the community litter-picks in parks in the spring and summer. There is now more freedom to explore avenues for 'Big Society' projects, such as volunteers taking on the maintenance for local parks and green spaces and community groups leading organisation and funding for annual festivals and events. It will not be a quick or easy transition to make, but if we begin to look at new ways of doing things and new ways to involve residents and community groups in the work we do, there is the real possibility of developing 'Big Society' projects. Renewable Energy Generation project: The council has secured a fully-funded student placement from Keele University's Project Green scheme for two months. James Chapman will be looking at the feasibility of the council generating renewable energy onsite. New government Feed-in Tarriffs and the removal of the ban on selling energy to the National Grid make the option of onsite energy generation a much more attractive proposition for local authorities. As portfolio holder for Economic Development, Cllr. Williams was pleased to report that as

from 1 October 2010 - 30 September 2011, businesses occupying single premises with rateable value of less than £6,000 will not have to pay any business rates and those with a rateable value of £6,001-£12,000 will receive discounted rates. This scheme will support smaller businesses during the continued financial downturn, with the timing of the scheme set so that the reduction impacts on two financial years. District Cllr Williams asked that the Clerk arrange for the Worcestershire Hub Christmas Opening Hours to be published in The Villager. (see p.20).

#### **Planning:**

##### *New*

10/01172/HOU White Cottage, Kingswood – Erection of extensions and swimming pool.

10/01074/HOU White Cottage, Kingswood – Erection of replacement garage and store.

10/01125/HOU Penny Patch, Hillside – Two storey extension to rear and side.

10/00627/HOU 3 Masons View, Laugherne Park – Conservatory to rear, ensuite extension and erection of shed within domestic curtilage.

##### *Permitted*

10/00893/FUL Land adj. Three Acres, Willow Road – Proposed stable block and change of use from agricultural to equestrian land.

10/01079/HOU Thornhill Villa, Horne Lane – Proposed French doors to dining room and balcony, and bedroom balcony.

#### **Parish Local Plan:**

All Councillors agreed that producing a local plan at the present time would not be cost effective.

**Finance:**

It was agreed to pay the final invoice of £66.95 from British Gas for the Weighbridge electricity charges. Councillors agreed that a direct debit with E-on for the electricity would not be financially viable. The Parish Council agreed to contribute £150 towards the cost of the strimmers recently purchased by the parish footpaths group.

**Correspondence:**

Included Worcester County Council Waste Core Strategy (for discussion) Councillors reports and items for future agenda:

A Councillor had been approached by concerned residents regarding the number of overgrown trees in Martley. The Clerk is to thank Mr D Cropp for putting up the Freedom of Martley board in the village hall.

**Date of next meeting:**

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, Bank Holidays excepted.

***Martley's Past***

**Girl's School Mon. 27<sup>th</sup> March 1871: Teacher's Note.**

This teacher was Miss Harriet Shaw, in her first year of teaching since leaving Training College in Derby. "Punished a child for taking a girl's dinner out of her basket and giving it to a dog. I spoke to the whole school (Infants and girls. AB) and impressed on their minds the seriousness of such



a crime. Having done this I took the child into my sitting-room and prayed with her that she might be lead (*sic*) to see what a very wrong thing she had done and ask for forgiveness."

*Alan Boon*

**The Villager  
would like to wish  
all its readers a  
Happy Christmas.**



**Martley Library Opening Times**

Monday 2—7 pm

Wednesday 4—6 pm

Thursday 10am -1 pm

Friday 2 - 4 pm

Saturday 10am -12 noon

01886 888396 (*opening hours only*)

### ***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 Hillside**

Horn Lane Bungalows 12.10–12.25

#### **Martley**

Tailors 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 in 2010:

1 December    22 December

The 2011 schedule is being prepared

Any enquiries should be made to Stourport Library, Worcester Street, Stourport, Worcs DY13 8EH, tel: 01905 822722  
stourportmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk



### **Little Witley's Film Society**

**There is no film in December as you will probably be busy with other things! Our next film is "Brideshead Revisited" and will be screened on Saturday 22 January 2011.**

**See details of the Little Witley Film Society on the Leisure page of [www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk) or phone Jean Latham on 01886 88888122 or Bob Jose on 01886 888383.**



# Christmas

A Concert of Christmas Music  
*with Raffle*

to be presented by the

**Ferndale Singers**

**Saturday 11 Dec. 2010**

**at 7.30pm in**

**Martley Village Hall**

**Admission £5 (to include wine and light refreshments)**

**Tickets: 01886 888246, 01886 821127 or  
01905 339067**

*Proceeds of raffle  
to be donated to charity*



**Worcestershire Hub  
Switchboard availability**

**Christmas/New Year:**

Friday 24th - 8am - 4pm

Saturday 25th - Closed

Monday 27th - Closed

Tuesday 28th - Closed

Wednesday 29th - 8am - 8pm

Thursday 30th - 8am - 8pm

Friday 31st - 8am - 5pm

Saturday 1st - Closed

Monday 3rd - Closed

Tuesday 4th - 8am - 8pm

**Wed 22 Dec 8.00pm onwards:**

**Carols at the Admiral Rodney**



**Thu 23 Dec 8.00pm onwards:**

**Carols at the Masons Arms**

*For details of carols in church, see p. 27*

# Events

## *Teme Valley Christmas Fayre*

At Lindridge Priory WR15 8JQ  
(just off the A443)

**Saturday 4 and Sunday 5  
December 2010 11am-5pm**

**Free entry and free parking**

*Come and do your Christmas shopping  
in the gracious surroundings of this  
elegant country house stunningly  
decorated for the festive season*

**Christmas stationery, gifts and  
decorations on sale**

**Homemade preserves and seasonal  
delicacies**

**Father Christmas will be on hand  
1-4pm both days**

**Prize Draw**

**Delicious home-cooked refreshments  
available,**

**including light lunches and mulled wine**

**Join us for Advent Carols  
4.30pm Sunday**

*Proceeds in aid of the five churches of  
Teme Valley North Parish*



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ **Christmas Fayre** ★  
★ **Martley Memorial** ★  
★ **Hall Sunday 5** ★  
★ **December** ★  
★ **starting at 1.30pm** ★  
★ *please come along and* ★  
★ *buy some of those early* ★  
★ *Christmas presents.* ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★





# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews  
01886 888303  
Sheila Richards  
01886 888378



## ***Church Flowers***

5 December Advent, no flowers  
12 December Advent, no flowers  
19 December Christmas decorations  
24 December Christmas decorations  
25 December No service in Wichenford  
26 December No service in Wichenford

## ***Ladies Fellowship***

The next meeting of the Ladies Fellowship is the Christmas meeting and is on Tuesday 14 December at 2pm.



## ***Elizabeth Evelyn (Susan) Britten***

We are so sorry to hear that Susan has died and send our deepest sympathy to her family. She was a much loved member of our community and will be very sadly missed.

## ***Wichenford Harvest Supper***

This was a very happy evening, the hall was full and everyone enjoyed a delicious supper. Out thanks are due to Rosemary and Mike Clark and all their helpers and to Pam Webb, Katie Kidd and Mark Andrews for organising the raffle and bar.

The raffle raised £240 for church funds and the bar £180 for the Memorial Hall. Many thanks to Margaret Peters and her friends for entertaining us with their lovely singing.

## ***100 Club***

Octobers winners are 1st number 101 M Baldwin and returned subscriptions to number 210 Bryan Jones and 96 Mike Clarke, drawn by Brandon

Corbett, congratulations to our winners.

*Clair*

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

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11 October 2010 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

#### **Democratic half hour/public question time**

The chairman welcomed the two new councillors that were co-opted at the last meeting. Mr Barrow represents Kenswick and Mr Wells was welcomed back on to the council and will represent Wichenford. Both councillors handed in the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.

#### **District and County Councillors Report**

District Cllr Williams read her report to councillors. County Cllr Davies reported on the changes that are happening in the NHS. Public Rights of Way spending is being reduced and they want to spend the money on ROW in villages that are most used. A questionnaire will be sent out shortly for parishes to complete asking for the most used. The parish council was asked to contact the owner of the land rover that is parking on the verge on the B4204.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

#### **Progress Reports**

Overgrown hedge at Willow Road:

The clerk wrote to the landowner regarding the overgrown hedge on 19 September. The last time she looked it had not been cut but she will look again and report back to the next meeting. Tree trimming: the land owners have been approached and most have agreed to do the necessary work required. The trees on Kings Green have now been done and the ones on the village green are in hand. It has been noted that trail riders have driven through Rosses Lane. This must be reported to police as the Permanent TRO is now in place. It seems to be happening at the same time and day.

#### **Planning**

*Applications considered since the last meeting*

10/01104/HOU. Boxley Farm Cottage, Wichenford.

The parish council have already considered this proposal and feel that the latest application is an improvement.

10/01142/HOU Cob House Farm, Wichenford.

Although the parish council has no objections to this application it was pointed out that similar applications have been refused in the past.

*Applications approved, refused, withdrawn.*

10/00784-00785LBC Laughern Brook House (Refused)

Detached double garage including garden store and conversion of existing garage into games room.

*Applications to be considered.*

None.

## Finance

The parish council is to discuss with the church warden what the excess is on the church window as the parish council would like to give some towards the window repair. The acceptance of the finances was resolved.

## Highways (B4204 Meeting)

A meeting was organised by Mr Reed at Kenswick Manor and three members of the parish council. Since the meeting three more incidents have occurred. The highways department have arranged to replace the single chevron signs with larger yellow backing boards and an additional incidental chevron will also be provided at the western end. At the B4204 Kenswick Manor bend, new continuous white edgeline will be ordered for the spring.

## Meeting (footpath at Woodhall)

A meeting was held on site with WCC; the landowner and the PC. The proposed diversion has been rejected.

## Councillors Training

Councillor Rendall attended the tree warden forum at county hall.

## Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Meetings were arranged for 17 Jan, 28 Feb and 11 April 2011 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford at 7.30pm.



## *The Shelsleys Educational Supplement*

### Medieval Journeys

Dr Katherine Lack will trace some medieval journeys across Europe. An Icelandic bishop travels to Rome, the route of the first Crusade, for example will be highlighted and brought to life by a geographer who turned to agricultural biology before the medieval era entranced her. Currently researching eighteenth century travels in Herefordshire Dr Katherine's depth of academic background promises a series of unusual sidelights on a fascinating age.

The talks will be held at Shelsley Village Hall (starting at 7.30pm) on 18 January, 1 and 15 February and 1 March 2011. The cost, which includes a mid-lecture drink, is £26 for the series or £8 per night. Proceeds to church funds.

Contact: Johnny Crabbe at Fetterlocks, Shelsley Beauchamp WR6 6QS, 01886 812 373, or [johnjean.crabbe@virgin.net](mailto:johnjean.crabbe@virgin.net)



# In the Garden



## In the garden in December

You probably won't be spending a lot of time in the garden this month, but let's hope there will be a few dry, clear days when you can fit in some useful 'maintenance'. Try to avoid walking on wet soil: it is compacted by your weight and if it contains clay the air is squeezed out, so that when it eventually dries out it will be rock hard. Also, try to keep off your lawn if it is wet or frosted, but do clear leaves, or the grass beneath will die off, leaving you with a mess in the Spring.

In the kitchen garden, providing the ground is not too wet, it is a good time to get on with digging and incorporating manure and compost. Spring cabbage and brassicas may need earthing up to give

them support in strong winds, tall-growing Brussels sprouts can be tied to canes. Continue winter pruning of apples and pears, keeping an eye open for apple canker—a fungal disease which causes flaking patches of bark, usually in rings, and dieback. Infected wood should be cut out and burned.

Grease bands can be fitted, or the trees can be sprayed with a winter wash, to destroy overwintering pests.

Non-evergreen shrubs can be pruned now. There are no leaves, so less mess to clear up afterwards, also it is much easier to see what to cut out. A useful guide is, remove dead,

diseased and damaged wood first, followed by any crossed branches. Tall-growing rose bushes should be reduced by half to stop wind-rock. You can prune them again, more carefully, in the Spring. Clear fallen leaves from rock garden plants as they will withstand dry cold but not wet, which will cause them to rot. Some popular plants for winter containers are hellebores, Cyclamen Coum, snowdrops, variegated ivies, winter-flowering heathers and pansies.



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JC



# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Christmas greetings to you all. After a couple of months' break from writing for The Villager and having said farewell to Rob and Bruce who are now starting their own new journeys, I am back with a Christmas message. Over the Christmas period I am sure we all make many journeys, for shopping, school productions, returning from university, family visits and much more. Of these journeys, some will be easy and some will be difficult, which reminds me of the journey of Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas, a journey fraught with danger on the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem, fraught with difficulty for a woman who was about to give birth, but also one filled with wonder and anticipation of the impending birth of the child promised to Mary by the Holy Spirit. I am sure that if we were to ask Mary whilst in the stable holding Jesus in her arms she would have said that journey was worth it.

For each of us make many journeys in

life and some of us have gone through a difficult journey this year, perhaps through illness or bereavement, and wonder what lies at the end of the road. The road may have been filled with fears and anxieties yet we have continued the journey because we have no other choice. We may have

felt alone, others may have felt very supported, but the journey has continued. This Christmas may we find that as we walk the journey of life that is laid out before us that we do not go alone but, like Mary and Joseph, we realise that God is with us. It is no accident that one of the names of Jesus was to be Emmanuel which meant 'God is with us'. This was to comfort both

Mary and Joseph on that

journey and throughout their lives knowing that whatever they faced he would always be there.

God be with you both today and in the year ahead, and may the peace of Christ be yours now and always.

God Bless.

*David Sherwin*



## Church services for December



Wed 1 Dec	10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Thu 2 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
<b>SUN 5 DEC</b>	8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel
	10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
	10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	4.00pm Christingle, St Peter, Martley
	6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
	6.30pm Communion Assistants Service, St Clements, Worcester
Mon 6 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tue 7 Dec	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	7.30pm Chantry High School Christmas Carols at St Peter, Martley
Wed 8 Dec	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thu 9 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
<b>SUN 12 DEC</b>	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
	10.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
	10.30am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	4.00pm Christingle, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tue 14 Dec	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	6.00pm Martley Primary. School Carol Service at St Peter, Martley
Wed 15 Dec	10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Thu 16 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
<b>SUN 19 DEC</b>	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
	8.30pm Christmas Quiz at The Admiral Rodney
Mon 20 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tue 21 Dec	10.00 Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 22 Dec	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
	8.00pm onwards Carols at the Admiral Rodney
Thu 23 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
	8.00pm onwards Carols at the Masons Arms
Fri 24 Dec	4.00pm Crib Service, St Laurence, Wichenford
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	5.00pm Crib Service, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	10.00pm Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
	11.30pm Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
	11.30pm Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Sat 25 Dec	9.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
<b>Christmas Day</b>	11.00am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley
<b>SUN 26 DEC</b>	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley





# Village Contacts



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Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Toddler Group	Will—01886 888340 or Jane—01886 888852
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Martley Young Farmers	Lou Wickens—01886-812754 or Caroline Bullock—01905-333617
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Martley Pre-School	Kath/Lucy—01886 889127 www.martleypreschool.co.uk
Martley Recreation Association (playing fields)	<i>Bookings</i> —Pat Owen 01886 888406 pat@owen01.fsnet.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
Wichenford Local Heritage Group	Heather Rendall—01886 888239

To put organisation and its contact details 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.

# And finally ...



## **The Villager needs an Editor—could that be YOU?**

Our current editor is retiring, so if the magazine is to continue, a new editor is needed.

You will be a good team-worker and good communicator, and be computer-literate. Familiarity with word-processing and page-layout software would be very useful too.

To find out more about what is required, contact Tony on 01886 888500 [Lantrow@aol.com](mailto:Lantrow@aol.com) or Michelle on 01886 888344 [editor@martley.org](mailto:editor@martley.org).



**From the Editor**

