

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 14 No. 9

February 2005

Editor: Michelle Higgins (01886 888344)

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

Advertising: Neil Stammers (01886 888513)

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

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

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

February Diary

Regular events:

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing

Weds 7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma

01886 821772

Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

Telephone Service: Mon & Tue 10am—3pm

Thu 10am— 7.30pm **Great Witley & Knightwick**

Surgeries: Weds 10am -4pm - by appt.

01584 810860

Short mat Bowling Tuesdays 2.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Weight Watchers Tue 6.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Enquiries Tracey Hopkins

07710 493617

See Church Words for details of services

Mon 7 **Martley Parish Council Meeting**
8pm Memorial Hall

Tue 8 **Shrove Tuesday—**”Pancake Day”

Wed 9 **Martley WI: Diana Chester talks about patchwork and quilting.** 7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall

Fri 11 Whist Drive at Wichenford 8pm

Sun 13 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick

Martley Ramblers mystery walk
Meet 1pm Church car park

Mon 14 **St Valentine’s Day**
(men folk take note!)



Tue 15 **Wichenford Ladies’ Fellowship**
2.30pm

Thu 17 **Meeting of The Wine Club** 8pm
Wichenford Memorial Hall

Sun 20 **Waling Not Working with The Path-or-Nones footpath maintenance group.** Meet 9.30am
Martley Village Hall car park

Wed 23 **Village Hall Committee AGM**
8.00 pm Village Hall

Thu 24 **Martley & District Horticultural Society:** Eric Jones talks about the beauty and diversity of our National Parks. 7.30pm Martley Memorial Village Hall

Fri 25 **Friends of Chantry High School Skittles Evening at the Bell Inn in Broadheath.**

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 Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Martley Parish Council held on Monday 10 January 2005 at the Memorial Hall

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

The Chairman invited all present to suggest ideas for grants for 2005; the following 12 were given; Broadband. Swimming pool. Improved parking at the Memorial Hall. Playground and recreation area—a hard surface area for games. Village sign. Native species planting around the signs. Refurbish the Memorial Hall. Public toilets. Restoration of the Wither Beds. Excavation of the medieval workhouse in the Millennium Green field. Resiting of the Horsham Court House. Purchase of land for village green. Not all of these would be able to be pursued, however the Parish Council would endeavour to consider as many as possible.

Budget Worcestershire County Council:

It was agreed that the Chairman would attend this budget meeting on 20 January 2005, 7pm at County Hall.

District Councillor's Report:

District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams reported that she and The Chairman (Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp) had attended a planning meeting ref. Taylors yard. This application was refused even though supported by this council. Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams declared that affordable housing was needed in Martley.

Both Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams and The Clerk had attended the re-launch of Heaton House which is much improved.

County Councillor's Report:

County Councillor Mr. A. Davies reported that the "Comprehensive Performance Assessment" had been completed and Worcestershire had moved from "Good" to "Excellent". It is probable that the council tax for 2005 will be increased by 4.25%; the final decision is due in February.

A review of speed limits throughout the county is due after 1st. April and transport plans are also to be reviewed; consultation meetings will be arranged with affected parishes.

Correspondence included:

MHDC Adoption of Legal Powers for

Street Naming. WCC Transport to Chantry school. Sir Michael Spicer surgery times. Worcs FWAG "Habitat Management for your Farm Woodlands" Jan 19' Evertons reply to our letter of 13 Dec. MHDC Renewal of Public Entertainments licence Chantry School. FWAG (DEFRA) "Your habitat management obligations under cross compliance" The Hundred House Jan 20^t 7.30.

Planning

Applications received: 04/02030/FUL Tomkins Cottage Hope House Lane: Replacement garage. 04/02027/FUL The Old Barn Martley Court Barns: Conservatory. 04/02028/LBC Ditto. 04/02080/FUL Pear Tree Cottage Witton Hill: Single story extns to kitchen, sun room and out buildings. 04/02081/LBC Ditto Applications Approved / Refused / Withdrawn None.

Finance:

There were 8 cheques totalling **£3052.62** for agreement and signature

Parish Paths Warden Report:

The Clerk read out the report.

Road Junction B4197/B4204 Centre of Village:

The Clerk read out the covering letter to WCC Highways which included this council's report. WCC Highways response letter was read out which mentioned that traffic engineer Maurice Carless will carry out a survey.

Ancient Hedgerows:

Cllr. Mr. G. Coombey-Jones reported that he had consulted with Mr &

Mrs.Pennell and produced a report. This was handed to the Clerk with covering letter for forwarding to MHDC Planning Dept.

Malvern Hills District Local Plan:

It had not been possible to revise this Council's response in the time scale and therefore no amendment had been submitted.

Urgent Decisions since last meeting:

There were none.

The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC):

A revised conditions of service for the Clerk has been received. This is a staffing matter and therefore should be discussed in private. It was agreed to hold a short meeting in camera immediately prior to the next council meeting.

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

A tree is hanging over the road in Ankerdine Road; the Lengthman to investigate.

It was requested that a note be sent to WCC Highways regarding the damage done to Prickley Green Lane by the heavy lorries.

It was decided that a separate "one project" tsunami appeal be set up in a few months time after the main relief work. This to be an agenda item in the future.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 7 February 2005 at 8 p.m.

Tom Pearsall, Clerk 01886 888256

Martley & District Horticultural Society

To end another very successful year of activities, Society members enjoyed their Annual Dinner, held in the Village Hall clubroom. An excellent meal was prepared and served by Society members for 41 people. During the evening Richard Webb, president of the Society, presented tokens to Sylvia Jeffries, Rena Davidson and Nellie and Jack Bradley, in appreciation of their help during the past year.

The retiring secretary, Judith O'Leary, was presented with a token and a basket of flowers in appreciation of her valuable work during her term of office.

The speaker at the February meeting on Thursday 24 February at 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall will be Eric Jones talking about the beauty and diversity of our National Parks. The Society Spring Flower Show will be held on Saturday 26 March at 2pm in Martley Village Hall. Details in the March issue of *The Villager*.

Nellie Bradley

Welcome

Welcome and best wishes for the future to Tony and Jean Wood who have moved from Sutton Coldfield to live at "Cherry Orchard", Newtown, Martley.

Welcome also to another new resident

at Laugherne Park. His name is Robert Appleby. We welcome him to our community.



Martley WI

**Wednesday 9 February
at 7.30pm**

Sport Martley

Some counties have ceased to have Group Meetings, but not so in Worcestershire. It is a twice yearly opportunity to meet fellow WI members from other institutes, meet some of the Federation Officers, hear a speaker, eat too much for supper and enjoy light-hearted entertainment to finish the evening, all on a slightly grander scale than our usual monthly meetings. With 10 institutes in the Elgar Group, hosting the evening only comes round once in five years. It is our turn in April and, after that initial sinking feeling, we are beginning to get quite excited. Watch this space.

This month the speaker is Diana Chester, talking about patchwork and quilting. Even if patchwork is not 'your thing' she is such a talented craftsperson and speaker it is a must to come and see the wonderful articles she creates. Do come and join us at Sport Martley. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Kate King

Martley Ramblers

Start Church car park 1pm Sunday 13 February

This month Jenny Underhill will be leading us on a 'mystery' walk. Will it be close at hand or far away? In an area known to us or totally fresh? A slight clue could be in the earlier start time. Come along and all will be revealed. The annual dinner is on Friday 18 February at the Fox & Hounds, Lusley, always an enjoyable venue. There will be the inevitable quiz with fantabulous prizes (perhaps). If you have not already booked, contact Sue Hoskins as soon as possible.

Kate King

Royal British Legion

Knightwick, Broadwas & Cotheridge with Martley

Prior to commencing the annual darts match in December, five applications for membership were presented and approved. The darts match was keenly contested with the ladies playing extremely well, even those who had never played before! However they gradually dropped out gracefully and the nail biting finish saw Andy callow taking the cup and John Kirk the runner-up trophy. As always we enjoyed a tasty Talbot supper of various sandwiches (including smoked salmon!), chips, sausage rolls etc. We also took the opportunity to present Annie with a floral arrangement for the continued kindness and generosity

to the branch throughout the year. The January meeting was on Monday 10, 2005 at 8pm at The Talbot Hotel. By the time you read this report I hope you will all have enjoyed a splendid Christmas and a happy hogmanay! Happy New Year.

Joyce Tyler, Hon Secretary (01886-821551)

Martley Cricket Club

Following their relegation at the end of last season Martley have new men at the helm for the challenge of the 2005 campaign. Richard Birchley is taking over as the first team captain, with Justin Rushgrove as his vice-captain. Both are young and enthusiastic, but have both played for Martley since they were 'lads'. Even younger will be the second team's captain Danny Mayfield, but he will be assisted by the 'veteran' Robert Ganderton as vice-captain.

Clearly 2004 was a poor season for the senior sides with both struggling in their respective divisions, but the Youth team did very well and many of the youngsters are now being integrated into the clubs senior sides, with three Sunday team turning out with a majority of younger players on several occasions.

Relegation does mean the club will renew old rivalries against the likes of Tenbury, Hanley Castle and Birlingham, and once again a full Saturday and Sunday fixture list will be undertaken.

The club are using the Indoor Nets at the Kings School in Worcester for senior players this year, on Sunday afternoon from 4-5 pm, starting on the 9 January. The juniors nets will continue at Martley Sports Centre on Friday evenings.

The club are on the look out for senior players and Richard Birchley would be happy to talk to anyone interested in joining the club, contact him on 07736 045730 for more details.

Once again the club would like to thank all the 'neighbours' who's homes and gardens surround the Jewry Field ground for their patience when we have to 'invade' the gardens to get the balls back, mostly when we are bowling it has to be said.

Also thanks to our Presiend Don Taylor for his continued support, and to all the Vice-Presidents and friends of the club who make a vital contribution to keeping village cricket alive and well in Martley.

Chantry News

Christmas is now behind us and there will no doubt be a sight of relief from Parents and a loud groan at the next credit card bill. Thank you to all those who supported the 'Friends of the Chantry High School in 2004, we confidently look forward to 2005 knowing you will be behind us again.

Supporting Children in Need.

During November last year, children from the school took part in fundraising events to support Children

in Need. The Non-Uniform Day, when the pupils paid £1 each to come dressed out of uniform, raised £680. Alex, Naomi, Jack and the pupils of 8 Woodbury organised a raffle for a 'BIG BEAR' and raised £91.

Well done to everybody who organised these activities and those who supported them.

Specialist School Bid

A decision on whether the school has been successful in its bid for Specialist School Status is due after Christmas, so look for updates in the School Newsletter and your local parish magazine or newsletters. An announcement will be made as soon as it is confirmed.

Forthcoming Events at the School

A Skittles Evening has been arranged for Friday 25 February at the Bell Inn in Broadheath. There are a limited



number of spaces (40), so as soon as tickets are on sale make sure you get yours. The cost will be £5.00 per person to include

a light Supper. Further details will be given when tickets are available, through the School Newsletter and posters in the catchment areas. We would like a sell-out so please support the school fundraising!

The Quiz Night is still in the planning stage and it is hoped to have a flower demonstration in the summer.

These events will be staged around the different villages to give as many

parents as possible the opportunity to attend a least one event during the school year.

Thank you

On behalf of the 'Friends of Chantry High School' may I give our sincere thanks to all our local editors for their support in publishing the news from the school over the last 12 months. You will be pleased to know several people have commented on, and now deliberately look for, the article when the new newsletters etc arrive.

We wish you continued success for 2005.

Irene Walker

***News Online and
Diary Online***

Attention all publicity officers! Martley needs to get people to include news@martley.org.uk on their To: list when emailing details of forthcoming events. If you do this, your event will be posted on the Martley website - with no further effort by yourselves!

John Layton

PS Don't forget that if your computer is "resting", you can't get near it for teenagers, or you just don't have a computer, the Library Link in the village Memorial Hall has computers that you can use to check out the Martley website (and other places!) - *Editor.*

***Knightwick and District
Trefoil Guild***

Fourteen of us met at The Royal Oak at Broadwas-on-Teme for our Christmas lunch. We had a superb meal and a very happy social "get together".

Geraldine Cooper

***Martley & District Pre-
School***

Just a quick note to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Carol Singing last December. The children, staff and parents from the Pre-school spent a traditional Christmas evening calling at houses in Martley, accompanied by Santa Claus, and hopefully delighting you with carols. You certainly donated generously to our Pre-school funds and we raised close to £150 on the evening. Thank you all very much.

Jane Hall, Treasurer.

Martley Library Link

Now open Even More Hours!

Monday 2-7pm

Wednesday 4-7.30pm

Thursday 10am-1.00pm

Friday 2-4.00pm

Saturday 10.00am-12 noon

As the Library Link is flourishing, we have extended opening times on Monday and Wednesday as well as introducing new opening times on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

The Library Link is a friendly place with helpful, trained volunteers who will guide you through the mysteries of catalogues or help you to use the computers if you need it, or just say "hello" and check your books out



when you've chosen. Did you know that as well as books, these days, libraries have collections of CDs, videos, DVDs and Spoken Word materials? If you go on Monday afternoon, you can also stay for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat! Why not give it a try in 2005!

You can also order items online from your own computer at home or work and collect them later from Martley Library Link. Someone will phone you when your book arrives. See Worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries and select Online Library Catalogues. You will need your membership number (as shown on your library ticket) to log in.

Martley Village Hall AGM

The Village Hall Committee will meet for their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 23 February at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Everyone who wishes to take part in Committee work, or is interested in this vital part of our village, is cordially invited to come along.

Martley Spurs

With such a long holiday period over Christmas and the New Year, not too many games were played in December.

The first weekend of the month saw the Saturday eleven beat Tolladine Sports 3-2 in their Group One Baylis Cup tie. The following morning the Premier side drew three all with Nelson a match in which Steve Pritckett netted twice.

Saturday the eleventh was another good day for the Spurs when they beat Goodrest Sports 4-1 on home turf, Steve Prickett, Chris Collins, Richard Taylor and Chris Hopkinson all getting one apiece. The Sunday side got beaten 2-1 the next morning when they lost to Arrow 2000. However the Reserves did themselves proud in their away game when they netted four to Malvern Radar's one, a pair of them put in by Luke Willetts.

Saturday the eighteenth was a Martley Cup round day and our Premier side did another good job by beating Goodrest Sports 4-1.

The Spurs Christmas Grand Draw brought in over £500. The organizing committee wish to thank all those kind people who donated the prizes and, of course, anyone who helped in anyway.

Beth Williams



100 Years Ago In Martley

February

On 23 February the schoolmaster reported that “the coughing in school is most distressing. It is almost impossible to give an oral lesson”. At the end of the month the result of the annual inspection said, “The Boys are proficient in Drawing and Geography. In other Subjects of Instruction their attainments are fairly good, but the latter would become more satisfactory if the Master were not expected to teach 4 or 5 Standards (however small) without assistance. Excellent discipline is maintained. The surface of the desks should be made smooth!”

ALB

Business Development Centre

Our free Business Start-Up programme in Bewdley 14-18 March, will answer all your questions and concerns, helping you to start and run your business. The Business Development Centre can help you by offering One-2-One Business Counselling; Training covering: Marketing, Finance Operations and Resources; Business Planning; Help and support in writing your Business Plan.

The same course is also offered in Worcester on a fortnightly basis.

For further details please contact Business Development Centre

Tel: 01905 612412

[e-mail:bdc@wortech.ac.uk](mailto:bdc@wortech.ac.uk)

Creative ways of using taxpayers money—No. 1

As we all know, since time immemorial, office staff the world over have been designated at one time or other in their upwardly mobile careers, to make tea/coffee for their bosses/fellow members of staff. Although this has probably been an onerous and much-disliked task, it is, compared with some office duties, a comparatively easy thing to accomplish. But now, Social Services in Worcestershire have deemed it essential that ALL personnel who take on the deeply serious task of tea/coffee making, should be in receipt of a Food Hygiene Certificate. If they do not have the aforementioned piece of paper, they will speedily be sent on a Food Hygiene Course, without which they will not be allowed to make the beverages that are deemed an essential part of office culture. All this is of course paid for by....yes you guessed....you and me, The Taxpayers! So after racing in one evening from work, no doubt having stopped at the supermarket on the way home to do shopping, you hastily put the kettle on for that much-needed cuppa, and partner/offspring/etc. say “Where's mine?”...”Aha!”...you say, “Sorry, no can do, because I don't have a Food Hygiene Certificate. You'll have to make it yourself!”

Nomda Plome



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Flower Rota

6 February Mrs Andrews
13 February Mrs A. Smith
20 February Lent – no flowers
27 February Lent – no flowers



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Ladies Fellowship

15 February at 2.30pm, venue to be arranged.

Service Times

Remember the change in times in February: 11am Morning Service on 20 February, the third Sunday in the month, replacing the 4pm Evensong during winter.

Norah Parsons Day Centre

The Christmas Sale was well attended with many interesting items on offer including home-made mincemeat and delicious cakes. There were two excellent raffles and a substantial sum was raised for funds. Thanks are due to the organisers and to everyone for their support. Members also enjoyed a super Christmas Lunch which was prepared by Paddy Sprunt and her helpers, afterwards they all joined in with carols led by Rev David Sherwin.

Christmas Whist Drive

A very successful whist drive was held at Wichenford Memorial Hall. The organisers wish to thank members of the Parish Council and members of the Hall Committee for kindly supplying the festive prizes, and also all the ladies who made mincepies. Special thanks are due to Hazel Nicholls who organised the evening and to Derrick Jinks who decorated the hall so beautifully, also to Elsie Whitehead and Marion Jinks who prepared and served the excellent refreshments. The profit raised is for hall funds.



Congratulations

Well done to Dale Jamie Matthews who has passed her Grade 5 flute exam with merit. We all join her family in offering many congratulations.

Wichenford 100 Club

December winner Rod Latham. Ticket 140. £112

John and Annie Hofton

We have been distressed to hear that John and Annie Hofton are tragically missing after the horrendous earthquake and tsunami in South East Asia. They were holidaying in Thailand. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Millennium Green

Inspection & Tidying Rota
February: G. Britten-Long

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13 December 2004 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Councillor Britten-Long chaired the meeting

REPORTS

P.C Naulls was welcomed to the meeting and reported that very few incidents have occurred. The most complaints received have been for mud on the road. Landowners have an obligation to clean up the roads and to put out warning signs. He reminded councillors to be aware of empty houses during the Christmas break.

The clerk was asked to copy the

information regarding Data Link and put it in the Villager magazine.

District and County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Hickling reported that WCC is one of the top ten losers in a national funding review, which will see the government take back more than £1 million. A meeting will be held shortly to see how this will affect the budget for 2005/06.

The CROW Act 2000 provides increased access for the public to mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land. However there will be no general Right to Roam. The public will have no new rights to access the vast majority of agricultural land in Worcestershire. The new rights will not come into effect until October 2005 for Worcestershire. We envisage a relatively small area of land will become available such as the few limited areas of Bredon Hill.

The County Council Countryside service will most likely appoint existing staff members as wardens to manage public access and provide signage where it is considered necessary.

District Cllr Williams gave late apologies for missing the 8 November meeting.

The District Council's Performance Assessment Results are imminent.

Local Plan- re gypsy sites. Councillors asked if the district council provide any of these. Malvern hills is considering setting up sites. One

caravan has been allowed at Powick. A small site was turned down at Newland but allowed on appeal.

The County Council have sites for travellers but are not obliged to do so, and are thinking of providing more. Most of the travellers are coming from Herefordshire as they are getting rid of their sites.

Heaton House has been relaunched today. It has 18 flats and 4 bungalows. Martley is reviewing the 30mph area behind the Chantry at Barbers lane.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Lengths man Scheme. J Clay was introduced to the parish councillors. A copy of his insurance certificate was read and will be put in with the minutes. The lengths man and clerk who both received a copy signed the agreement. The lengths man was given a work schedule, copies of the gully maps and road numbers. He was given permission to start work.

Salt on Highways. The Highways Dept are happy for the parish council to have salt where they like providing they have containers to put it in. They will not allow it to be placed on the verge near a water course or hedgerow.

Elgar Housing. The clerk reported that Elgar Housing are aware of the problem behind the garages and will get it sorted.

PLANNING

Applications received for comment since the last meeting. Newland Cottage, Witton Hill Wichenford. The Northern Area Planning Committee

invited a parish councillor to a site meeting at Newlands Cottage to act as a spokesperson for the council, on their visit of 26 November. Applications received for comment since the last meeting. Erection of a garage block for units 1, 2, 3, Rimmers Farm. This application has only just arrived and a site meeting was arranged for 21 December.

Decisions made by MHDC. Erection of garage at The Tallet, Cockshoot Farm has been granted. Erection of garage at barn A, Cockshoot Farm has been passed. Extension on side of barn. Barn C, Cockshoot Farm has been granted.

FINANCE

The income and expenditure account were studied and it was resolved that they should be adopted by this parish council. £4,382.00 has been spent to date. The council approved 2 cheques for payment and signature to the sum of £60.81. The clerk also explained that a cheque for the Pathfinders had been authorised before the meeting totalling £546.36 for equipment already purchased.

Annual Budget/Precept 2005/2006. Although the budget was discussed at the November meeting the clerk expressed some concern over the agreed budget and precept. The parish council are reluctant to increase the precept for 2005/06, which means we will have expenditure over income. The budget was again discussed in detail. It was decided to cut £500.00 from the Memorial Hall allowance,

£50.00 from training, and £100.00 from councillor's expenses, cutting the proposed budget expenditure by £650.00. It was resolved to ask for a precept of £6,500 for 2005/06.

Millennium Green. The Parish Council resolved to discuss giving the Millennium Green a donation at the January meeting.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The parish council have had several complaints that the litterbins in the village are not being emptied. Councillor Panton has contacted Malvern Hills many times but situation has not improved. The clerk was asked to write a letter of complaint to the chief executive of Malvern Hills regarding the situation.

VILLAGE POST BOX

The clerk explained that a complaint had been received, as the letterbox by the old post office was not visible due to an overgrown hedge, and wondered if it could be relocated to a more prominent position. Now that the hedge has been cut the parish council resolved to keep the letterbox where it is.

CORRESPONDENCE

For decision by the Parish Council. No one could attend the Budget Consultation Meeting on 20 January. For information only. All correspondence listed on the agenda has been circulated for councillors to read and comment on. Correspondence received after the agenda was written. Macmillan Cancer Relief. Thank you letter from the Nora Parsons Day

Centre, and Wichenford PCC. CPRE Fieldwork magazine.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The footpaths of Kenswick and Wichenford are at the top of the list for maintenance. A meeting was arranged to discuss how and what to do. Footpath 17 is completely marked up and 1 bridge is required on this path. Footpath 19 is marked up and a new gate is to be provided on this path. It is evident that no work has ever been done on the parish footpaths. Footpath 18 and 21 is partially done and a small amount of FP 10. Most of the equipment needed has now been purchased.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

7 March 2005 at 7.30pm

18 April 2005 at 7.30pm

25 April 2005 Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45/8pm.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm (to be re-arranged)

18 July 2005 at 7.30pm.

All in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

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

Tsunami Appeal at Martley Post Office

The contents of the 5p collection jar have been dedicated to the Tsunami Appeal—please feel free to add to them. What a good way to put those annoying little coins to good use!

Sudan Correspondent—Part 2

It has always surprised me how I keep coming in contact with the same people over and over again, and in different countries. Already here in Khartoum I have met up with colleagues, whom I have not spoken to for many years. I don't know why, but they always seem to recognise me. Once seen never forgotten, I suppose! This time, for instance, a water engineer by the name of Wingching recognised me—the last time we met was in Goma during the refugee crisis. And that was some years ago now. There are at least five humanitarian aid workers here in Khartoum who have 'crossed my path' before, when I was in Sudan, Uganda and Angola.

Everywhere there is dust, dust, dust. It is so bad that people are advised not to wear contact lenses. Anyone suffering respiratory problems is definitely advised to stay away. However, the city itself is bustling with people and vehicles of all types, including donkey carts and three wheel taxis. Traffic management is non-existent; there are traffic cops around but non-effective, to the point that congestion become chaotic. I suppose, similar to any other major town in the world, although here only the main thoroughfares are covered in tarmac. All side streets are just sandy dirt tracks. To give you an idea, if the same conditions appertained in the UK, ALL roads around Martley would be unmetalled tracks, including most of the A and all B roads a short distance from Worcester. Where, even there in the city, all side roads would become just tracks, complete with rubbish dumped on the roadside. Roads compete with one another for the largest potholes requiring numerous deviations by vehicles as they navigate precariously around the city. Much, much, worse than Worcester High Street! Have already seen numerous vehicles running around without number plates, even bodies missing and bits dropping off. M.O.T.? Never heard of it here! Accident insurance? Don't make me laugh. Many of the drivers have never seen a driving licence let alone had a lesson!

Yesterday, my first full day in Khartoum, was spent in acclimatising to the heat and humidity and in visiting various of the large UN-funded organisations, such as WFP (World Food Program) where much useful information regarding the present situation in communications (my field) can be gleaned. In my particular case, it was time well spent, as one or two answers were provided (satisfactory, I hope) to the problems I expected to encounter during the next few weeks.

Have just been informed that I am flying tomorrow, an early morning flight to Nyala, (its on most decent world maps) where I expect to be busy for the next seven days or so before moving to the next location— providing there is spare

seat on the plane! And room for my luggage. And the plane can get off the ground. And the permits are correct, and, and, etc.

Another thing that surprises me is the way the names of all these towns tend to spring off the tongue as though they were familiar places: Nyala, El Fasher and El Geneina.

An entirely unprecedented event has occurred. My personal travel permits have arrived, complete with passport photographs stapled to the A4 documents printed entirely in Arabic, a language of which I have absolutely no knowledge. I know that everyone reads from right to left! Even calendars are marked: sun, sat, fri, thurs, etc. The authorities provide a completely separate document for each area you expect to visit. They all looked identical but I have been informed that photocopies may not be accepted. This depends a great deal upon the mood of the person, or persons, who 'need to know'. Anyway, it seems that the application was approved in record time so maybe Tony's visit did some good after all. Of course it may have been my exceedingly fine passport photographs, which spurred the authorities into action!

The journey to Nyala took nearly three hours at a speed of 350 miles an hour flying at a height of 20,000 feet. Having glanced at the map, I found that, from Khartoum to my destination, we travelled around 1000 miles. In terms of distance, this is only about half way across the country; such is the size of Sudan!

Domestic departures are a complete shambles. The check in area, the size of a postage stamp, was where hundreds of people were all trying to get to one of the desks with loads of boxes, parcels and bags, all at once. There are numerous airlines running internal flights in Sudan and from what I could see, they were all operating at full capacity. After a lot of shoving and barging I managed to reach the check in counter with my 30kg or so of luggage to be informed that, before a ticket could be issued, I had to pay an airport tax to a lady who sat some distance away, surrounded by loads of other passengers, all of whom were also paying taxes. Eventually all requirements and formalities were completed, a boarding card was issued and the time came for the next stage.

The departure lounge was similar to the baggage hall except that many rows of metal chairs had been randomly set so as to cause the maximum damage to ones legs. In one corner a refreshment kiosk had been strategically placed, right next door to the loos! Passengers were everywhere. I was even convinced that some had been there all night, by the look on their faces. The plane had been scheduled to leave prompt at 8am and it was now 9.30am.

*John Layton
October 2004*

More Catwords

Mouse problems

I am having mouse problems...but of the plastic kind. I think it has a fur ball. Time to take it apart again! I blame all the excess hair in this abode, although 'Sir' would contest this. Can you make toupés from feline or canine hair? Answers on a postcard please. I even have dog hair in the cobwebs!

Catatonic Cats and Rubber Bands

A friend once asked me: "What is it with cats and rubber bands? Which is stronger- cat digestive juices or rubber bands? I might need to find out." My girls aren't interested in rubber bands, surprisingly. But they are interested in my expensive artist's paintbrushes. They like the furry ends, so I have massacred brushes. Minky and Spider love running off with my brushes too. It gives my painting some interesting textural effects.

So what with that, plus the multitude of insects embedding themselves in the wet paint, and honeydew from the elder tree splattered all over the surface of the canvas while I worked 'en plein aire' in the summer, wildlife art has taken on a new meaning. I'm not sure who is 'wilder', the art or the artist!

After a spell of unseasonal wet and windy "summer" weather, there has been much feline

pottering about and idle lounging in the garden. They seem glad to be able to enjoy fresh warm air and sunshine too. The sudden warmth has brought out many bumblebees and butterflies too, which has resulted in many worrying crashing sounds emanating from the house, and things that were previously on windowsills disappearing! Luckily nothing's been broken as yet but I cringe every time I hear an excited chortle, and a scramble. My sills are looking denuded.

Minky thinks she is a dog. She is stretched out in the sun as I write, her back legs stretched out behind in sunbathing pose, like a Labrador. Minky took Bert and I for a walk up the track this evening. It is one of her favourite things to do. She comes when I whistle her too, another reason I am sure she thinks she's a dog. I have been wondering if she'd take to a small lead, so I could take them both further. This of course would only serve to reinforce my neighbour's suspicions that I have at last gone barking mad!

The cats love the heat, and are sprawled around the garden in various abandoned poses, and positively catatonic. They will of course spring to life once dusk arrives, racing about, Minky chortling when she speeds round the flower beds and up trees in

(Continued on page 27)



Data Link

People of all ages have accidents or become ill at home and need to call 999 for help. When the emergency services arrive one of the things they will do is check the inside of the front door for a green cross. This green cross means that the people who live there are using the Data Link scheme, which is provided and supported by West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Why Data Link? Well, when our loved ones have suffered an accident or fallen ill suddenly, we do not always think clearly or remember the details that might make all the difference in an emergency. This is where Data Link comes in.

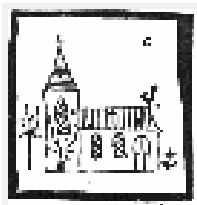
Data Link is a system recognised by the emergency services, which provides details of medical history for the people concerned. There are three parts to Data Link:

1. A green cross on the inside of the front door.
2. A green cross on the outside of the refrigerator.
3. A small canister (usually a used film canister) inside the refrigerator.

This canister has a green cross on the outside and contains a medical form showing past medical history, drugs being taken and any other necessary information.

In case you are wondering “why the fridge” – it is one place that doesn’t have a lot of clutter and the fridge is usually easy to find.

Data Link packs are provided free by your local Neighbourhood Watch thanks to the generous sponsorship from Npower. All you have to do is fill in your details on the form provided and place this in the canister (also provided) and then pop this in your fridge. However, if your medication changes, please remember to update your form.



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

With the arrival of the month of February, many look forward eagerly to the 14th, St. Valentine's Day. The Oxford Dictionary of Saints is reluctant to associate our modern customs of sending cards, flowers etc to loved ones with either of the two Saints commemorated on this day. Both 'Valentines' were martyrs of the 3rd century, one a Roman priest, the other the Bishop of Terni, (although they might even be one and the same person), but neither have any connections with lovers or courting couples.

It is always good, however, to express our love for those dear to us. Indeed, God calls us to love not only Him but 'our neighbour as ourselves' and St. John writes: "Little children, let us love not only in word or speech, but in truth and action". So within our Benefice of Martley, Wichenford and The Lower Teme Valley we are acting positively to do this with the establishment of a Pastoral Lay Visiting Group whose members will assist the Clergy in bringing a sense of God's presence, His care and His love into people's lives. God reaches out in love to each and every one as can be seen in the death of his Son, Jesus

Christ, on the Cross. We are all special to Him whether we feel we belong or not and He is always there for us. As members of the Body of Christ, the Church, we act as God's hands and feet, ready to accompany any on a difficult stage of their journey, ready just to be alongside someone who requires support, ready to give a helping hand.

St Theresa of Avila wrote: Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which to look at Christ's compassion to the world; yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

May we serve in this way so that you feel loved by God every day of the year, and not only on February 14th!

Jennifer

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4 March 2pm
Clifton Upon Teme

Services in February

6 Feb	
Wichenford	9.30am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Family Worship
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Knightwick	8am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	6.30pm Evensong
13 Feb	Lent 1
Wichenford	10.0am Family Worship
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
20 Feb	Lent 2
Wichenford	11am Morning Prayer
Martley	8am Holy Communion; 11am Morning Worship
Broadwas	11am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	9am Matins
Knightwick	3pm Evening Worship
27 Feb	Lent 3
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
Broadwas	8am Holy Communion; 11am Family Worship

(Continued from page 24)

search of moths, bats and other objects of potential gastronomic interest. They all love to share their garden with their human.

They all love the garden now it resembles more of a jungle challenge. A perfect place to act out feline fantasies, with much leaping and ambushing tactics to be practised, just in case!

One evening, a neighbour's hen visited the garden. My girls, never having seen a hen so close, decided to close round it in a semicircle, crouching low. The scene resembled something from the Serengeti, but

with a pride of small cats. Happily the hen escaped, and the girls ran for cover when it took a lunge at them. Well, it was a very big hen!

On wet days they seem to do nothing with great zeal. Just eating and sleeping, the only exercise being their long walk between cat food, litter tray and bed. Quite exhausting! Where did I go wrong?

AH.2004



In the Kitchen



Marmalade Pudding

If you have made more marmalade than you know what to do with (only joking!) try this lovely pudding!

2 eggs
2 tablespoons marmalade
3oz suet
6oz breadcrumbs
3oz sugar
Milk to mix

1. Mix eggs and marmalade.
2. Mix suet, breadcrumbs and sugar into egg mixture.
3. Add enough milk to make a soft, but not runny, dough.
4. Put into a greased ceramic bowl (allow room for the pudding to rise) and steam for two hours, or 40 mins if you prefer to make several smaller puddings. You can also cook steamed puddings in the microwave. Check the instruction book for your microwave for exact details
5. Turn out and serve hot with custard or a sauce made with marmalade melted into warmed orange juice. Yum!

In the Garden



February - the Spring flowers can produce a variety of colours with the daffodils, hellebores, snowdrops and scillas in bloom. Trees, shrubs, roses and perennials can be planted out. Cover rhubarb crowns with containers that are open top and bottom, to produce tender sticks. Obtain seed potatoes. Set them up in trays to produce strong shoots ready for planting, starting with early varieties and then maincrop.

Cut all canes of Autumn fruiting raspberries to ground level; new canes will soon grow. The seed of some half-hardy annuals can be sown including ageratum, celosia, salvia, impatiens, aquilegia, dianthus, petunia and nemesia. Cover an area in the garden with cloches or polythene, to help warm it up for the sowing of parsnips and carrots, early peas and broad beans. Plant out shallots and onion sets. Seed of summer cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce can be sown in containers and pricked out into cell packs when large enough. I find seed sown in a three-inch pot will produce plenty of plants for the average garden.

Jack Bradley



Village Contacts

Editor of The Villager	Michelle Higgins editor@martley.org.uk <i>or</i> 01886 888344 <i>or</i> leave articles at the Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Neil Stammers neil.stammers@btinternet.c om <i>or</i> 01886 888513
Church	Rector: Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 Curate: Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org.uk
Martley Parish Council	Chair: Dave Cropp—01886 888398; Clerk: Tom Pearsall—01886 888256
Martley WI	President—Pat Crook 01886 888550
Martley & Dist Hort. Soc.	Mrs J O'Leary—01886 888253
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303, Sheila Richards— 01886 888378
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Counl.	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Secretary—Mike Holmes 01905 641739
Trefoil Guild	geraldine.cooper@btopenw orld.com