

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

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January 2005

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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

January 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

Sat 1 New Year's Day

Mon 3 Bank Holiday

Sun 9 Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers around Martley Wander Around Worcester. Meet 1pm Church car park

Mon 10 **Wichenford PCC Meeting** 7.45pm
Martley Parish Council Meeting 8pm Memorial Hall

Wed 12 **Martley WI: Marion Cumella talks about MENCAP** 7.30pm Sport Martley

Fri 14 **Whist Drive at Wichenford** 8pm start

Tue 18 **Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship** 2.30pm at the home of Jo Root

Thu 20 **Meeting of The Wine Club** 8pm Wichenford Memorial Hall

Mon 24 **Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council Meeting** 7.45pm Wichenford Memorial Hall

Thu 27 **Martley & District Horticultural Society:** Climbers, ramblers and scramblers' by Maurice Braucher 7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall

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

A meeting of the Martley Parish Council was held on Monday 6 December 2004 at the Memorial Hall. Cllr Mr. D. Cropp, Chairman.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

A parishioner raised the position of the 30 mph sign in Horn Lane. It was felt that repeater signs were needed to remind motorists that Horn Lane was still limited to 30 mph some 300 metres to the de-restriction sign. A review of the speed limits is due next year. A request was received to include Willow Road in the limit. Several parishioners had commented on the lighting at The Crown at Martley. The Chairman has spoken with the manager and agreed that the signage lighting will be switched off at midnight and will be realigned to reduce annoyance to local residents. The clerk to write and confirm.

Budget

Parish Council: The Clerk presented the budget. It was resolved to accept this budget.

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

Quality Parish Application

The Chairman announced that subject to

submitting two revised items this council will achieve quality status during 2005 and that this council will enter the “Village of the year” competition next year.

District Councillor’s Report

District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams reported that the CPA results are due on 16 December. The refurbished Heaton House will be officially re-launched on 13 December.

County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor Mr. A. Davies that correspondence continues about Ankerdine Hill. WCC are to look at the freight routes to see if alternatives are possible. The Worcester Orbital Route is on their next agenda. WCC budget is less than expected. A meeting has taken place ref. The Chantry additional building which may affect “The Damson Walk” and therefore the definitive route is to be examined. It is suggested that a meeting with this council and our Parish Paths Warden will be necessary.

Planning

Applications received: 04/01828/FUL Martley Court Martley conversion of barns; 04/01830/LBC D i t t o ; 04/01897/FUL Honeysuckle Cottage Hillside extension; 04/01932/LBC Ditto. It was agreed to arrange a site meeting for the above.

Applications Approved/Refused/

Withdrawn: None

Finance

There were 13 cheques totalling £12151.25 for agreement and signature and two cheques that had been authorised before the meeting totalling £67.39. Income May 04: £350.00. Current Bank Balance Lloyds TSB 29 Nov 04 £21479.98 a. It was resolved to donate £65.00 to Royal British Legion under LGA 1972 Sect 137. b. It was further resolved to donate £100.00 to Macmillan Cancer Relief under LGA 1972 Sect 137. Actual position 6 December 04 £9365.10. The acceptance of the finances was resolved. A letter has been received from The Millennium Green Trust requesting assistance. The clerk to reply and the matter will be taken forward to a future meeting.

Parish Paths Warden Report

Mr. Nicklin was not present so no report was given.

Road Junction B4197/B4204 Centre of Village

Cllr. Mr. G. Coombey-Jones submitted a detailed report for consideration. The chairman thanked Cllr. Coombey-Jones for the excellent report and requested that the clerk and he prepare a letter for submission of the report to WCC Highways.

Ancient Hedgerows

Cllr. Mr. G. Coombey-Jones had submitted a letter detailing the requirements for identifying and protecting ancient hedges. It was agreed that he and the Parish Paths Warden should arrange a meeting with Mr. Ian Pennell and identify the necessary hedges. The clerk could then arrange for the necessary process to be put in action. It

Correspondence

Included: WCC Library e-mail ref. our

liability (£1967.31); Macmillan Cancer Relief request for donation, see finance; Sit Michael Spicer surgery dates; WCC Public Notice re. temp. closure of B4204; Cllr Mr. G. Coombey-Jones – protection of old hedges; Memorial Hall request for help with insurance; MHDC Christmas recycling & refuse collection; WCC Sharelink plus poster; CPRE newsletter; Festival Housing Group; opening event Heaton House; CPRE “Fieldwork”; Millennium Green request for help see Finance.

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas

A gully cover is compressed outside Row End Cottages Berrow Green road; the Lengthman to investigate. Prickley Green Lane is undergoing some damage due to very heavy articulated lorries taking potatoes out; this lane was fully re-laid only last year. It has been determined that The Crown at Martley does have a bar that the locals are welcome to use.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Monday 10 January 2005 at 8 p.m.

Tom Pearsall, Clerk 01886 888256

***The Villager would like to
wish all its readers
a very happy New Year.***



Martley WI

Wednesday 12 January at Sport Martley 7.30pm

This year we shall be meeting at Sport Martley, not the Memorial Hall. If anyone needs a lift, please contact a committee member. Although it is a change of venue, we shall still be supporting the Memorial Hall for fund raising events.

Marion Cumella, one of our members, is the speaker this month and will be telling of her work with MENCAP. The competition is for the funniest Christmas card, so everyone can enter this one. The competition for a design for a new banner was won by Margaret Lloyd-James and we hope to be forming a working party in the New Year to get stitching.

See you at Sport Martley on 12 January.



Martley & District

Horticultural Society

Society members were welcomed to their Annual General Meeting by their President, Richard Webb. The chairman, Barbara Kirby reported on the year's activities, showing another very successful year. She thanked

everyone for their continued support, especially for help at the Spring Show, the Plant Sale and the Annual Show when there was a record number of entries. She also gave special thanks to Judith O'Leary for the tremendous support she has given to the Society during her term of office as Secretary.

The treasurer, Rena Davidson, presented a satisfactory financial statement for the year ending 30 September 2004. It was decided to donate £100 to Martley Village Hall, £100 to the County Air Ambulance and £50 to Martley Recreation Association. Officers for 2005 were elected as follows: President, Richard Webb; Vice Presidents, Jack Bradley, Margaret Cole, Tony Kirby and Reg Snow; Chairman, Barbara Kirby; Vice Chairman, Ray Ellis; Joint Secretaries, Pam Minchin and Margaret Jackson; Treasurer, Rena Davidson; Show Secretary, Sylvia Jeffries; Committee, Nellie Bradley, Irene Walker, Ian Pennell and all officers of the Society. Independent Examiner of Accounts, Reg Snow.

Judith O'Leary presented the programme for 2005 with interesting speakers beginning with a presentation on 'Climbers, ramblers and scramblers' by Maurice Braucher on Thursday 27 January at 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall. 'More ideas for your garden'. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month during winter and spring months, 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall. New members most welcome. During summer

months members visit gardens and other places of interest. Dates for your diary in 2005: Spring Flower Show 2pm 26 March, Annual Plant Sale 2pm 21 May, both at Martley Village Hall, and the Annual Show 20 August at Martley Village Hall and Playing Field.

Nellie Bradley

The Christmas Fair

After Saturday's worrying snow, the sun came out in time for the good citizens of Martley to take a stroll down to the Village Hall for the annual Christmas Fair. £600.00 was raised for much-needed hall funds through the various seasonal stalls, the W.I. cakes, Nellie's groceries, Darren's books, everything you could wish for plus a raffle, Teresa's "guess the weight of a lovely Christmas cake, Pam Minchin got everyone buying tombola tickets, Brian Woodburn sold off his playing cards, Dave Bradley brought in a load of great books and CDs, our own Dave (Cropp) busied himself selling very welcome warm mince pies and mulled wine, the Horticultural folk offered bunches of berry-laden holly, young Alex Taylor won the Christmas hamper kindly brought in by Neil Stammers. Even though mid-November was a wee bit early for a tree and decorations, a festive atmosphere filled the hall that Sunday afternoon.

The Hall committee wishes to thank all those kind people who donated

prizes etc, all those who helped and, most of all, those who came along without whom such local events could not survive.

Beth Williams

Pudford Lane

The mud has re-appeared again in girth big dollops but this IS Pudford Lane and it has been a very wet autumn and winter. With all the talk of Global Warming, will the Pudford Glacier appear again this year?

Welcome to baby James who has arrived to join big brother Sam. It is lovely to have two-legged little ones in the Lane again and it won't be long before the four-legged ones begin to arrive. Congratulations to Val Weddell-Hall for setting up the very successful 7 2 6 club at her school. It must be a great boon to parents who know their children are in a very safe environment.

Willow Barn renovations continue at a good rate of knots, but it does seem strange not to hear the milking machine humming away twice a day. In view of the recent burglaries and incidents in the Lane, Neighbourhood Watch has been very busy, reminding everyone to be extra wary in securing goods and premises. Is anyone willing to donate an unwanted CCTV camera



so that ALL arrivals and departures can be noted? On second thoughts, perhaps that might not be a good idea after all.

Kate King

Martley Library Link

New Opening Times for 2005:

Monday - 2.00pm -5.00pm

Wednesday - 5.00pm -7.30pm

Thursday - 10.00am -1.00pm

Friday - 2.00pm -4.00pm

Saturday - 10.00am -12.00noon

The Library will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 3 January 2005.



Martley Ramblers

**Sunday 9 January
Church Car park 1pm**

The recent AGM was well-attended and the programme for 2005 planned. Pam Bowers and Dorrie Goodyear did not want to stand for office again and were thanked for their hard work over the past years. Sue Hoskins has agreed to be secretary and to keep membership and finances in order and Harry King agreed to serve again as Chairman. The voting for the best walk during 2004 was closely

contested and Pam Bowers as the winner was awarded guardianship of Mabel for 2005. Most walks are around 5 miles, with leaders trying to avoid too many stiles. New members are always welcome, just come and give us a try. Subs are only £1 per head, no charge for well-behaved dogs. The meeting place is the Church car park, usually second Sunday in the month, usually 2pm, but this is dependent on how far we travel to the area where we walk. Details are always in *The Villager*. This month, just to be difficult, we are meeting at 1pm, ready to depart for a Wander Around Worcester. This is a repeat, by popular request, of 2 years ago and the leaders will try very hard not to lose anyone this time.

Kate King

Royal British Legion

Knightwick, Broadwas & Cotheridge with Martley

Thank you to all who supported the branch on Remembrance Sunday and especially to the Brownies and in particular their Standard Bearer Phoebe Robinson, who carried out her duties so well! Our Standard Bearer, Andrew Callow, is indeed a good tutor. It was also a pleasure for many of us to have Canon David Salt to conduct the service – David and his family were there in the days when we had a Sunday School, a Youth Club and a Rectory occupied by David and his young family! Thank you, David

for deputising for our Padre Rev John Guise. Thanks also to David Leake our trumpeter who has played Last Post and Reveille for a number of years. Following the service was the traditional “sherry taking” at The Royal Oak – sincere thanks to Marc and his staff for looking after us so well. Many stayed on to enjoy a hearty Sunday roast. Thank you also to Churchwardens, Peter Walker and Robert Pearce for all the preparations at Broadwas church and to the ladies who decorated the church so appropriately.

The Annual General Meeting on 1 November was very well attended and the various reports were encouraging. With many rural branches closing, we are indeed fortunate that our membership is steady and we are always grateful to the local community for their support. New members are always welcome.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Joyce Tyler; Chairman, Bert Fortey; Vice Chairman, John Kirk; Secretary, Joyce Tyler; Treasurer, John Kirk; Standard Bearer, Andrew Callow.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month was marked by members and guests at our ‘home’, The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick. Following this short act of remembrance we adjourned to the lounge and the comfort of a blazing log fire where we, as always, were made welcome and

served with sherry and shortcake. Thank you Talbot. In December we held our annual Darts Match at The Talbot, and as always were served with a tasty Talbot supper. More new of this meeting next month. Seasons greeting to all.

Joyce Tyler, Hon Secretary (01886-821551)

Martley Spurs

November got off to a great start when the Premier side netted 12 goals to Oak Apple's one in the second round of the Worcester Nursing Sunday Junior Cup. Steve Pritchett netted four, Mike Fellows and Chris Collins both scored hat-tricks and Daryl Gormley put in the other two. This was followed by a poor game in which the Sunday Premier Eleven lost by one goal to Kempsey. The 14th saw Martley playing away to Hallow

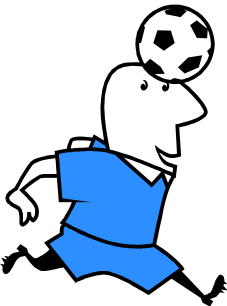
NHS Hearing Aids

A clinic for servicing and repair of hearing aids and for obtaining replacement batteries will be held on the first and third Wednesday each month from 11.30am to 1pm at The Surgery, Great Witley. Telephone 01905-760171 for appointments and information.

WMC where they notched up five to the home team's one. Mike Fellows netted a pair while Chris Collins, Daryl Gormley and Simon Gibbons each got one to their names. Sunday 15th saw the Premier eleven beat Nelson 2 - 0 while Luke Willetts scored twice for the Reserves in their four-all draw with Droitwich Spa Eagles.

The next weekend got off to a good start when our Saturday Premier boys netted three to Hallow WMC's two, a couple of which put in during extra time when Hallow's defence just fell apart. The Reserves unfortunately lost to Droitwich Spa, three to the Spurs two, in their Bernard Finnegan Cup match. The Final Saturday of the month had the Spurs winning their match with Perrywood 2 - 0 in the Saturday Premier Division but Sunday 28th really turned out badly with both sides losing their Cup tie games. The

Reserves went down to Stourport in the third round of the WFA Junior Cup and the Premier eleven fell to Brintons Chainwire in the WFA Premier



Cup round two.

Martley Spurs Football Club wish all their members, fans and readers of The Villager a very happy New Year.

Beth Williams

The Church in Heaton House

For many years, a faithful few gathered regularly for a Communion Service in the Lounge at Heaton House. Since the beginning of 2004, the number of those coming has steadily grown, and it is now quite usual to hear at least 18 voices raised in song.

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month the Rector, Curate and members of St. Peter's, Martley, join with residents of the House and others who live close by to praise and worship God. There is a real sense of belonging, a sense of community, within the group and everyone enjoys a lively chat over tea or coffee at the end of the Service.

In this the 21st century, this is 'Church', the Body of Christ, people meeting in His name. It stands alongside the Sunday Services which take place at Wichenford, Martley, Cotheridge, Broadwas, Knightwick and Doddenham. As church it is open to everyone, whether regular church-goer, someone looking to return after a break, or someone exploring faith and spirituality anew; open to all across the whole Benefice.



Our Services in January are Holy Communion on 12th and 26th Jan. at 10.15am.

Do come and "Taste and see that the Lord is good" Psalm 34,v8.

We thank God for this 'Church', for those who come, for those who help, and we pray for its future growth and ministry.

Revd. Jennifer Whittaker.

PS We understand that at one time there was a Workhouse Chapel in this area. Are we carrying on its tradition?

Knightwick and District Trefoil Guild

We had a good turn out for our monthly meeting in November, which was held at the home of Gladys Palmer in Bromyard. We held a "knit in" the proceeds of which will go to "Talking Books".

Geraldine Cooper.

On the Web



Have you looked at the Martley website (martley.org.uk) recently?

- "Have Your Say" about village issues
- read about John Layton's recent visit to Sudan as Communications Officer for Oxfam
- find out about the artist whose work is displayed in The Crown at Martley
- read a full list of events in our area on the Diary page
- read the full record of the Parish Council meetings
- sell those unwanted Christmas presents and outgrown bicycles!
and much, much more!

100 Years Ago in Martley

1905 – January

On the 19 January 100 years ago, the Parish Council met in the Board Room of the Union and the following minute was recorded – "A communication from the British Weights & Measures Association inviting co-operation in a scheme to resist the introduction of a Metric System was laid before the Council, but no motion was made on the subject". Councillors did, however, agree to 'purchase of cards and papers for the announcement of Meetings to be defrayed out of the balance of £1 9s 7d maining the treasurer's hands'.

ALB



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Church news

Flower Rota

2 January Mrs Webb
9 January Mrs Richards
16 January Mrs Richards
23 January Mrs Andrews
30 January Benefice Service at
Broadwas

Ladies Fellowship

Meet at Mrs Roots home on 18
January at 2.30pm.

PCC meeting

In Memorial Hall on 10 January at
7.45pm

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kay and Hugh
Higgins on their Diamond Wedding
Anniversary on
12 January. May
you have many
more years of
h a p p i n e s s
together.



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Broadheath & District Farmers Club

The Annual Goose Supper of the
Broadheath & District Farmers' Club
was held at Sapey Golf Club. After a
superb meal for over 100 members
and guests, the cups and prize cards
were presented to farmers who had
had the stock and crops judged back in
July. Our local farmers came home
with no less than five cups out of the
eight classes: Eric Delehay, 1st Grass
Ley, 1st Winter Wheat, 3rd Winter
Barley, 2nd Beef, 2nd Sheep; Trevor
Pargeter, 1st Beef, 1st Maize; John
Richards, 1st Dairy, 2nd Maize, 2nd
Grass Ley. The Ladies competition
for best garden was won by Helen
Pargeter.

A special presentation was made by
the President, Jim Wheeler, to
George Orton upon his retirement as
club treasurer for the past 21 years.
George has worked tirelessly for the
benefit of the club. He was presented
with a decanter suitably inscribed. It

must have been George's night as he went on to win first prize in the raffle – a bottle of brandy to fill his decanter!



Wichenford 100 Club

November winner Keith Bedworth. o. 169. £112.

Millennium Green Tidying & Inspection Rota

January: Jan Pantou

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

An Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8 November 2004 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford. Councillor Britten-Long chaired the meeting

REPORTS

District and County Councillor Reports. The District Councillor did not attend and no report was given. Councillor Hickling reported that the winter maintenance is now underway for Worcestershire with regular monitoring has met office weather forecasts. A fleet of gritters is on standby throughout the county aiming to keep traffic moving. HALCROW have been awarded the new maintenance contract starting 1 April

2005, which will provide the council with a full design and consultancy service.

MATTERS ARISING

Lengthsman Scheme. The lengthsman has now got his own public liability insurance, of which he was hoping to bring a copy to the meeting. The clerk has written to him offering him the job on a trial basis, once the insurance certificate has been seen by the Parish Council. The highways agency are happy for him to spend some time with Martley Parish Lengthsman as no more training courses are planned at the moment. The clerk has asked for a copy of a map showing the road numbers and gullies in the parish. Councillors were asked to get back to the clerk with any jobs that the lengthsman could do, so a list can be made for him to start with. The clerk is to find out what happens with the green waste.

Masons Arms. A letter was received from Avebury Taverns and distributed. They have arranged an investigation into the ragwort, and have made no final decisions on this site.

Pencroft Lorries. The volume of lorries passing through the village seems to have stopped, so no action is necessary.

PLANNING

Applications received for comment since the last meeting: extension to side of barn. Barn C Cockshot Farm, Wichenford. The parish council feel that it would be inappropriate for an extension on a barn to have a slate

roof and would recommend tiles, which would be more in keeping with the buildings in the surrounding curtilage. Proposed shed and store at 4 Kenswick Manor. The parish council are not in favour of this application. Decisions made by MHDC: There were no applications under this agenda item.

FINANCE

The income and expenditure accounts were studied and adopted by this parish council. £2,040.54 has been spent since April 2004. Cllr Wells and Cllr Britten-Long have quotes for equipment needed by the Pathfinders, and Cllr Wells will study them. Annual Budget 2005/2006: the clerk issued a proposed set of figures for the budget 2005/06. After examination, it was resolved to grant £350.00 to the Wichenford Millennium Green, at the next meeting. This will be given under Sect 137 LGA 1972. The Parish Council asked for the grants to be increased from £300.00 to £600.00. The budget shows an increase in the clerk's salary according to the National Joint Council, but a slight decrease in the clerk's estimated expenses. An increase in the insurance, subscriptions and contingency have been accounted for. The proposed expenditure is estimated at £6,804. The precept will be discussed at the December meeting. It was agreed that before the 2006/2007 budget is discussed a flyer will be distributed to the parishioners of the village asking what they would like to

see the precept spent on. The Council approved 7 cheques for payment and signature to the sum of £1795.10. It was resolved to give the sum of £300.00 to Wichenford Churchyard. The completion of the audit for 31st March 2004 has been advertised on the notice boards. It was resolved to pay the external audit fee of £141.00. Rogers coaches the pensioners coach passes £17.01. Some safety equipment has already been purchased by Cllr Wells for the Wichenford Pathfinders group to the sum of £213.89. It was resolved to reimburse Cllr Wells for the materials already purchased. Cllr Wells also explained about the work they have done on the footpaths in particular No 17 that has the most complaints. Nora Parsons Day Centre. Every year the parish council give a grant to the day centre using Sect 137 LGA 1972. It was resolved to grant £250.00 toward the running of the Day Centre under this section. Wichenford Memorial Hall. In 2002/2003 the parish council granted £500 to the Memorial Hall. In the 2004/2005 budget the parish council budgeted the sum of £1,000.00 for the hall that it has not yet had. Laugherne Valley Travel. It was resolved to pay the sum of £100.00.

CORRESPONDENCE

For decision by the Parish Council. Second Deposit of the MHDC Draft Local Plan. This has been seen by some councillors and Cllr Panton and Wetherall will look at it in more detail and make any necessary comments.

No one is able to attend the Malvern Hills Area Committee Meeting on 2 December. At this meeting the extension of the North Worcester Ring-road will be discussed and the clerk was asked to ring and arrange for the minutes to be sent to the parish council.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillors asked if the Highways Dept would be able to put some salt on Poplar Road corner and Kingsgreen. (Clerk to find out). Complaints have been received about the mud on the roads and the amount of debris left on the roads after the hedges have been cut. The parish council agreed that individuals were entitled to speak to the contractor/farmer concerned about these issues. Councillors were reminded about the Remembrance Service on Sunday at 10.45am and to give a raffle prize for the Whist drive. The clerk was asked to speak again to Elgar Housing regarding the brambles behind the garages of Queens Estate. It was suggested by the Pathfinders that the finger posts should have the footpath number stencilled on them to make it easier for walkers to find their way around. The parish council agreed with this idea.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS

24 January 2005 at 7.30pm
7 March 2005 at 7.30pm
18 April 2005 at 7.30pm
25 April 2005 Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45/8pm.
6 June 2005 Annual Meeting of the

Parish Council at 7.30pm
18 July 2005 at 7.30pm.

All in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.
.Shirley Sanders Clerk to the Council
(01886 888302)

“Sinbad” Pantomime

The Monday Night Group, a registered Charity supporting local organisations, are presenting “Sinbad” at the Civic Centre, Stourport from Friday 21 January to Saturday 29 January. Ticket Office 01299-825170, Adults from £6-£8, Children £5-£6.50. A super panto for children.



Wichenford Open Gardens

In 2005 the gardens will be open for the weekend of 25 and 26 June. The usual delicious teas and lunches will be available.

Congratulations!

John and Sue Palmer are delighted to announce the arrival of their first grandchild - Abigail Kate. A beautiful daughter for Richard and Angela. Love to you all, Mum Dad and Steve



Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service is an informal and confidential service for patients and relatives to help deal with any questions, concerns or difficulties they may have about their local NHS services. Every NHS Trust in England has a PALS

PALS focuses on improving the service to NHS patients by:

- Advising and supporting patients, their families and carers
- Providing information on NHS services
- Listening to your concerns, suggestions or queries
- Helping sort out problems quickly on your behalf

PALS can act independently when handling your concern, by talking with staff, managers and, where appropriate, other relevant organisations to come up with prompt solutions. If necessary, we can also put you in touch with other specialist local or national support agencies. As the service is confidential, we will not contact other people on your behalf without your consent.

Sue Home is the PALS Manager for South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust, and her contact details are as follows:

Freephone: 0800 917 7919 (voice/minicom),

e-mail: pals@sworcs-pct.nhs.uk

or write to:

**South Worcestershire PCT, Isaac Maddox House, Shrub Hill Road,
Worcester WR4 9RW**

The old sheepdog

There was an old sheepdog near
Clifton
Who guarded the drive to his farm,
From a hole in the hedge and a dig in
the ditch
He viewed all the cars with alarm.

We 'pipped' the horn and cried
"Hello"
But never did he sway
With eyes open wide and stance at the
ready
He turned us all away.

One Sunday fair that dog was gone,
We worried at his plight.
My husband said, "I fear that dog
May be with his Maker tonight".

A few weeks hence and sad at heart –
Again we drove past his farm
And, oh, such joy, the dear old boy
Still viewed the cars with alarm.

So ponder ye folks who rush to and
fro,
The lesson we learn from this story.
No matter how pointless his task may
seem
Each dog has his own day of glory.

Pat Morgan, Martley



Dear Editor,
I am writing to ask if any clubs or societies in the Martley area would be interested in one or other of the slide presentations and talks I am able to offer on one of the following subjects:
1) Venice and Florence. An account of a trip I took to Venice and Florence in 2002. There is a good deal about the history, art and architecture of these two great cities of the Renaissance. It is a personal account of the effect these cities had on me.
2) "New Zealand – Half a world away." An illustrated account of trip to New Zealand in February 2004. I climbed on glaciers and volcanoes, walked in the rain forests, and did not want to come back!
3) The Picos di Europa in Northern Spain. An account of a trip to the Picos in May 2004. Remote villages, spectacular scenery, wonderful flora and fauna.

My fee is £30.00 plus 15p per mile travelling.

I provide my own projector and screen.

I can give my presentations during the day or in the evening.

*Bill Douglas
1, Eversley Close,
Malvern,
Worcs.
WR14 2LA*

*tel.01684 573831
billd@malvern309.wanadoo.co.uk*

Roll on Summer!

So that was Christmas and New Year then! Over and done with until next December, just the lights and decorations to take down, but I hope some very happy memories.

With the dawn of 2005, thoughts move ahead to holidays. “Where are we going? What shall we do this year?” is the oft-quoted phrase. Well, since last June, I have been booking all types of holidays for clients—the people who know exactly what they want, where they wish to go, and often get the best price, because it helps the tour operator to plan ahead knowing they have firm commitments. Importantly, they also get the best dates and flight times, vital if you have to plan around school holiday dates, and the definite possibility of a fine now, should you err into term time. How many times have you bemoaned the fact about those midnight flight times, especially those of you with children!



So what’s hot for this year? Well, America is proving a popular destination again, partly because of the strength of the pound against the US dollar. In Dubai, a 5-star underwater hotel is the latest under construction as the country tries to build a sustainable infrastructure to prepare for when the oil runs out! Thailand and Southern Africa are proving to be immensely popular destinations through our winter months, the pound goes a long way against the baht and the rand and the thought of another damp dreary bitter February is enough to make anyone reach for their passport—I know I am! Cruising for both young and the not so young, is currently enjoying something of a renaissance, with some exciting deals available.

But what if you don’t want to go so far afield? Well, the cheaper airlines are offering some superb fare deals to various European destinations, but you need to book early to take advantage of the limited availability as they use a “fluid price system” where prices can change by the hour.

Whatever your travel needs, business or pleasure, packaged or tailor made, (which I specialise in) European or Worldwide, Citybreak or just a break, give me a ring for a friendly informal chat. To be included on my mailing list of various offers available, please send me an e-mail indicating your holiday preferences.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Ann Carter
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Sudan Correspondent—Part 1

John Layton acts as a Communications Officer for Oxfam, He travels to areas where aid is needed and sets up communications (radio, satellite etc.) to enable aid workers to contact each other. He writes about these sometimes-harrowing experiences for The Villager.

Hopefully, this will be the first direct e-mailed report on my travels in Sudan. Here in Khartoum we have reasonably reliable, but slow, Internet facilities where connections can easily be made with friends and colleagues left behind. In a couple of days time it may be a different story as I am due to depart Khartoum tomorrow (Friday) for the Darfur area in the west of the country.

It might have been a disastrous start to my trip but for the excellent service provided by Anne and Dave Rogers. For my last few journeys abroad I have arranged to fly from Birmingham Airport. It being less hassle than getting to Heathrow or Gatwick, where most of the destinations I visit can be accessed directly. On a few occasions, Manston in Kent has been my departure point when a convenient transport plane has been available, going in my direction, and I have literally been the only passenger and 'hitched a lift'. They don't provide seatbelts on those types of aircraft. Your lucky to get a seat, let alone refreshments!

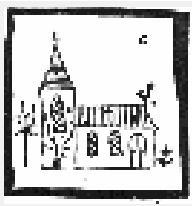
However, last Tuesday morning Dave Rogers took me to Birmingham airport

at the ungodly hour of 04.15 in the morning. In plenty of time to catch a Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt, and onwards to Cairo and eventually Khartoum. I checked in, went through passport control as normal and was sitting in the lounge when I realised that I had forgotten the security wallet containing my dollar float—at the start of six weeks or so of an assignment, flying to a country where ONLY cash is acceptable and credit cards are absolutely useless. A call home on the mobile phone, at five o'clock in the morning, and the missing wallet was found in the bedroom. Another call to Dave, a quick turn round, and back he came with the missing items. Brilliant! With 15 minutes to spare before departure time, I had made it!

The flight to Frankfurt was fine, now there was a five-hour wait for the connecting flight to Cairo, then on to Khartoum. By the time we touched down it was late at night, the scheduled arrival time being 22.50pm. Getting through customs was a relatively painless affair although only last week a colleague had a copy of 'Hallo' magazine confiscated as the customs inspector considered some of the pictures to be very risqué!

I now have to wait in Khartoum for a couple of days while travel permits are obtained.

John Layton, October 2004



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Did you play charades over the Christmas holiday? I have one for you, a play, a song, a film and a book. Here goes.....I wonder how we look back at each passing year as a new year comes? As a **play** once said, do we, 'Look back in anger' as perhaps something bad has happened to us or a loved one which we find difficult to come to terms with. Or perhaps we look back with joy at some wonderful event having treasured memories?

Most of us will have mixed memories some good, some bad, some issues that are continuing with us into the new year, and of course some things we eagerly await as the year unfolds. New home, new job, new relationships, new school, new friends, new challenges. The old has passed there's a new beginning (**as a song, Mistletoe & Wine**).

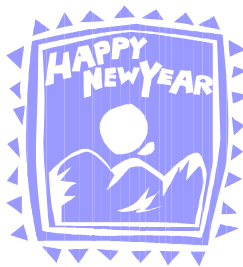
If only I hear you say, a new beginning would be just wonderful! I saw a movie last year, well more than one, but the one I remember the most is, 'The Passion of the Christ', during the course of **the film**, Christ, on the way to Calvary is stopped by Mary his mother and said, as she

looked upon his blood stained face, 'Behold I make all things new'. What? How? In the midst of great suffering, how can this be?

With the Christmas story still ringing in our ears we are reminded that as Mary was given the blessing of the Christ Child, she was never promised that the unfolding years would be easy, but the ultimate prize, the salvation of mankind would make, 'All things new'.

No one can promise you an easy year, but I can wish you every blessing in Christ and hope that whatever you face that, as the old is passed, the new beginning will see 'All things new'. (these words are of course from **a book, the Bible**, Revelation 21:5) God Bless you all.

Rev David Sherwin



A Grand Prix Scalextric Competition for all

Saturday 29 January, Martley Village Memorial Hall.

Come and enjoy a race day on a giant Scalextric track which will run from 2.00pm-5.00pm in the afternoon for Children and their Parents, and in the evening, 7.00-10.30 when the adults will be let loose on their racing ambition, and invited to enter a team.

The cost of the afternoon will be £1 entrance fee and racing as often as time allows. The evening will be £5.00 which will include food and wine with an Italian Grand Prix theme. Tickets will be available for the evening event, but the daytime event will be on a drop in basis. Come and join us for some fun!

Children's Midweek 'Sunday School'

Some parents have asked me why we do not have a Sunday school within the churches of the Benefice. It is obviously very difficult to run without enough helpers, many of whom are unavailable on Sundays and children themselves are very busy. I am 'fishing' to see if there would be interest in this taking place or if you would like to be involved in helping with such a project I would be interested in hearing from you. It will of course meet children's act requirements.

Rev David Sherwin

January Services

2 January	Epiphany
Wichenford	9.30am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Family Worship
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Knightwick	8am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	6.30pm Evensong
9 January	Epiphany 1
Wichenford	10.0am Family Worship
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Cotheridge	8am Holy Communion
16 January	Epiphany 2
Wichenford	11am Morning Worship
Martley	8am Holy Communion; 11am Morning Worship
Broadwas	11am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	9am Matins
Knightwick	3pm Evening Worship
23 January	Epiphany 3
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
Broadwas	8am Holy Communion; 11am Family Worship
30 January	Epiphany 4
Broadwas	10.30am Candlemas Service- Benefice Holy Communion

In the Kitchen



In the Garden



Cauliflower Cream Soup

This is just the thing to serve after a morning out with Path-or-Nones or Millennium Green volunteers.

Serves 4-6

1 medium-sized cauliflower
½ pt (250 ml) milk
½ pt (250ml) water
1 medium onion
2 teaspoons salt
1 tablespoon very dry Sherry or white port
¼ pt (150ml) single cream
Chopped watercress for decoration

1. Break cauliflower into florettes. Put into a large pan with the milk and the water, onion and salt.
2. Cook gently, covered, until the vegetables are very soft.
3. Blend until smooth.
4. Return to the pan and stir in the sherry and cream. Reheat until just boiling, stirring. Sprinkle with watercress before serving.



Garden Tips for January

As we enter 2005, thinking perhaps of a time when we feel that gardening can be forgotten for a while: it is not true, for there are many ways that the gardener can prepare for the coming season.

Double digging has its advantages, particularly on the heavy soil, where it will help the drainage and enable plant roots to penetrate to a greater depth; they will then obtain the advantage of the deeper root system when the warmer weather comes along. Time to sterilise the empty plant pots and other plant containers, hanging baskets, plant trays etc. Bare rooted roses can be planted this month if soil conditions are favourable. Also plant fruit trees and shrubs. Plant heathers, Erica carnea varieties for winter flowering, with Erica cinerea varieties for summer blossoming. Complete winter spraying of fruit trees. Take care to cover any plants growing under trees if spraying with tar oil.

Jack Bradley

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