

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 15 No. 8

January 2006

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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:

Walking Not Working with the Path-or-Nones. Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help survey the footpaths

Mondays

1st Monday in the month:

Martley Parish Council 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling 2.30pm Martley Memorial Hall (2pm winter months)

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

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing

7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

Martley Folk Club: 1st Wednesday in the month at The Admiral Rodney

Martley WI: 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm Sport Martley

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

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

Other events:

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

See Church Words for details of services

See articles inside for details of special events AND changes of times or dates of regular events

See the Diary page on www.martley.org.uk for a complete listing of all forthcoming events (that the Diary page Editor knows about)

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



New Year's resolutions

Yes, it's that time of year again. The Christmas knees-up has left you with the usual post-yule guilt pangs. All that food and booze consumed and money spent has left you feeling deflated and down in the dumps. So it's time for your annual crack at keeping to your New Year's resolutions.

If you're the type of person who finds it difficult to keep to your yearly vows, here's some top 10 tips for 2006.

1 Don't resurrect resolutions you

failed to keep in previous years.

Any resolutions you've made before and haven't kept are unlikely to do any better this year. Forget them or redefine them.

2. Cross 'shoulds' off your list.

Shoulds, musts and oughts are other peoples goals, not yours.

3. Take into account your values.

When goals fit with your values, success comes more effortlessly.

4. Identify what might stop you from succeeding.

Sometimes barriers disappear just by being named.

5. Make resolutions throughout the year, rather than waiting for January 1.

You're more likely to make resolutions that have real meaning if you write them down when you think of them, rather than creating some for the sake of an annual ritual. Keep a special book just for this purpose.

6. Focus on what you want, not on what you don't want.

Surprising though it may seem, your reality is defined by your thoughts - energy follows thought, so you attract what you focus on. If you think about

what you don't want, that's just what you'll get. Turn it around and work out what you DO want.

7. Make your resolutions clear and precise.

If you don't have a clear objective, you won't know if or when you'll have succeeded. Vagueness creates anxiety and drains energy.

8. Make your physical environment do the work for you.

If you want to watch less TV, pack it away in the attic. If you want to get out of debt, leave the credit cards at home. If you want to eat healthier foods, make sure that's all you have in your house. You get the idea.

9. Visualise the benefits of your resolution.

Be specific and clear to yourself about why the outcome is important and worth attaining. Imagine how good it will feel right down to the last detail.

10. Get support.

Change is easier and more fun when you have someone on your side to keep you on track.

Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for 11 days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism.



Ancient new years

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in a n c i e n t

But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Year is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations.

During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

For new year luck



Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man. Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a

ring is good luck, because it symbolises "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.

Many parts of the US celebrate the New Year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The hog, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolises prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

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Martley Ramblers – Jan 8 1pm church car park

There was a good turnout for the AGM when the treasurer announced we are still solvent, and the chairman reported on the year's activities. There were fewer miles covered than in previous years due to two cancellations caused by inclement weather, when conditions were too dangerous underfoot. Sue Hoskins resigned as secretary/treasurer and Pam Bowers agreed to take over the post again. Harry King was re-elected chairman.

Mabel, our mascot who is awarded for the walk voted the best of the year, went home for safe keeping for the next 12 months with Alex Walker, for the lovely spring Blossom walk he led around Newnham and Frith Common. The voting was very close, but the chairman did not have to use his casting vote.

The programme for 2006 was completed, with many interesting suggestions and will be sent to members shortly. It was agreed to try morning walks in July and August to avoid the possibility of too much heat in the afternoons. The first walk in 2006 will be January 8, meeting at the church car park at 1pm to leave for a walk in Worcester led by Jill Strudwick. Anyone wanting details of the programme, please contact Harry King 01886-888439.

Kate King

Martley & District Horticultural Society

Society members were welcomed to their Annual General Meeting by their President, Richard Webb. Barbara Kirby, the society's chairman, gave a comprehensive report on the year's activities, showing another successful year. She thanked everyone for their help at the Spring Show, the Plant Sale and the Annual Show. The treasurer, Rena Davidson, presented a very satisfactory financial statement for the year ending 30 September 2005. It was de-

cidated to donate £125 to Martley Village Hall, £125 to the County Air Ambulance and £75 to Martley Recreation Association. The retiring show secretary, Sylvia Jeffries, was thanked for all her work for the Society over many years. Jack and Nellie Bradley, who are also retiring from the committee, were thanked for all their help on the committee.

Officers for 2006 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; Secretaries, Pam Minchin and Margaret Jackson; Treasurer, Rena Davidson; Show secretary, Pauline Ellis; Committee, Ian Pennell, Ernie Freeman, plus all officers of the Society; Independent Examiner of Accounts, Reg Snow.

The programme for 2006 was presented by Margaret Jackson with interesting speakers and events. The first meeting of 2006 will be on Thursday

Martley Library

Martley Village Hall, Berrow Green Road, Martley, WR66PQ.

Tel: 01886 888396

Opening hours

Mon 2.00-7.00

Wed 4.00-7.30

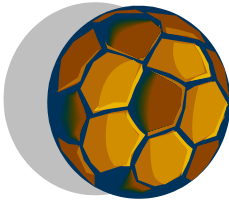
Thurs 10.00-1.00

Fri 2.00-4.00

Sat 10.00-12 noon

26 January at 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall when the speaker will be Gordon Forest; his subject, "The Wildlife Reserve". Dates for your diary 2006: Spring Flower Show, Saturday 25 March at 2pm, Annual Plant Sale, Saturday 27 May at 2pm and the Annual Show Saturday 19 August at 1pm. All these events at Martley Village Hall and playing field.

Martley Spurs



November did not get off to a very good start when the Saturday Premier side lost to the Lamb and Flag 11 in their Nursing Junior Cup tie, and the reserves lost to Trinity Lakes in the same cup round the following day. Things did not get better the next Saturday when the Premier team lost to Welland Athletic by just one goal in a fairly high scoring game. However, the Sunday Premier boys made up for things the next morning when they hammered Cutnall Green by five goals to nil, Tom Goldsmith and Colin Smith both netting twice. The weekend of November 20-21 saw many games postponed due to water-logged pitches, the Saturday 11 did play, however, but managed to lose to Powick.

The league tables, published towards the end of the month, showed the Saturday Premier side in fourth place, the Sunday Premier team half way down their table, but have played far less

games than the leaders, and the Reserves, now in Division one, are lying towards the bottom. However, with only five games played compared to the nine played by the leaders, there is plenty of time for them to climb up that table. The Spurs are sorry to hear that Luke Walford, who broke both his tibia and fibia during a bad tackle while playing against Kays back in September, will no longer be able to play. The club wishes him all the best. Martley Spurs players and members wish everyone – fans or not – a very prosperous New Year.

Beth Williams

Martley's Past

In January 1871, on the 9th, Harriet Shaw wrote: 'Commenced my duties as mistress of the Girls' School, having previously finished my two years training at Derby/Lichfield Diocesan Training College.'

On the 10th she wrote: 'Very small attendance owing to heavy fall of snow.'

On the 11th she recorded: 'Detained the whole school for 10 minutes for breaking a rule.'

ALB

Cinderella

Don't miss the pantomime "Cinderella". Presented by The Monday Night Group at the Civic Centre, Stourport-on-Severn on Friday 27 January through to Saturday 4 February. Please telephone the booking of-

fice for details on 01299-825170. There will be a selection of evening and matinee performances. The Monday Night Group is a registered charity and generously supports many local organisations.



Thank you

I would like to thank all members of Martley Women's Institute for their support and efforts during the past happy four years that I have been President

of the W.I.

During that time we have hosted a successful 80th Anniversary Party and a Group Meeting, held cake stalls to raise money for our funds, the village hall and also charity, entered competitions within the County Federation, discussed important issues at our Resolutions Meetings, had lovely social garden meetings at members homes, and have even been known to be a little frivolous, on occasion, at the Harvest Supper.

All our members and their husbands have supported me 100%, giving time and effort whenever required for which I truly appreciate.

Congratulations to Gwynneth Darby, our new President. I hope she enjoys her term of office as much as I did.

Pat Crook

Foresters Brass band

I have been searching for information on Martley Foresters Brass Band, but all I can find out is that they are now extinct. I have searched the Internet for newspaper articles, but found nothing. I saw the Villager and wondered how far back your issues date. I believe the band were about in 1880, and I am not sure whether there is a link to the Ancient Order of Foresters, or the Foresters Arms.

I know this is a bit of a cheek to ask you, but if you know or could put me in the direction of somebody who knows a lot about the history of this band or indeed Martley, I would be most grateful.

Yours thankfully

Barbara Campbell

If anyone has any information about the Foresters Brass Band please contact the editor at the Villager and we'll pass on the message..

Chantry news



Although there may have been an absence of news reported in recent editions, the school is as busy as ever with various events and productions. Details of which will be in future news.

Year 11 Awards Evening

On November 17, last year's Year 11s returned for their awards evening. The hard work of the students being recog-

nised across the whole curriculum with the presentation of their GCSE certificates and further specific subject awards for achievement. Well done everyone and good luck for the future. The school has its own minibus, which is used for taking the pupils on various outings and to sports matches. Unfortunately, the present one is starting to get very tired and will soon need to be replaced. The Chantry 200 Club is a number draw which takes place every month and the funds raised after paying prize monies goes towards the fund for a new minibus. Pupils will be given further details of this fundraiser soon, but anyone wishing to join in can ring the school and speak to the Club 200 Secretary.

Happy New Year to all those who take the time to read the 'Chantry News'.

Administrator required

If you are looking at putting something back into the community, look no further...

Martley & District Pre-School is looking for someone with good administration skills to help out in the office on a voluntary basis for about 2 hours per week.

If you are interested in helping, please call Kath Smith on 01886 889127 (Pre-School) or 01886 888 761 (home).

Martley & District Pre-School 8am to 6pm. Ages 2 - 5.

Martley WI – Wednesday 11 January 7.30pm

We have had our AGM, the outgoing treasurer reported on a healthy bank balance and President Pat Crook and Secretary Mary Kipping presented reports reminding us of what a busy, happy year we have had. Julia Rogers conducted us through the possible difficulties of electing a committee for 2006.

Pat Crook is having a rest from the presidency and Gwyneth Darby has taken over. Mary Kipping remains secretary and Chris Campbell, as treasurer, will be following in the footsteps of Julia Roberts, who has guided our finances so well over the last few years. Helen Coombey Jones was welcomed to the committee.

The speaker on Wednesday 11 January will be Simon Rogers giving us "An introduction to British Sign Language" and a chance to learn to converse between ourselves. The competition is "My New Year's Resolution, and have I broken it yet?" At the time of writing the venue is uncertain, due to the proposed alterations at Sport Martley, but this will be shown on the poster in the Post Office.

Kate King

Women's Institute programme 2006

11 January, Mr Simon Rogers: Intro-

duction to British sign language

Competition: My New Year's Resolution.

08 February, Mrs Noble: Kings, Queens and Mistresses.

Competition: A piece of Commemorative China.

08 March, Ms Christine Gledhill: Jam as a craft,

Competition: A reflection of spring in any medium – Millennium Plate.

12 April, Mr Bernard Mills: Shopping over 200 years.

Competition: Most attractive serviette (paper).

10 May, Resolutions Meeting followed by Cheese and Wine.

Competition: Tale "An interesting Day".

14 June, Garden meeting.

12 July, Mrs Pauline Ford: Talk on Turkey.

Competition: Bookmark – any medium.

09 August, Outing.

13 September, Mrs Rosemary Prosser: From Tights to Trousers.

Competition: Photograph of my pet.

11 October, Mr Robin Pearce: Running a nursery.

Competition: Autumn flower arrangement.

08 November, AGM

13 December, Dentith and Price, Music Hall Entertainment

Competition: Most outlandish charity shop outfit.



Chinese Year of the dog

People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence because they know how to keep secrets. But Dog People are somewhat selfish, terribly stubborn, and eccentric. They care little for wealth; yet somehow always seem to have money. They can be cold emotionally and sometimes distant at parties. They can find fault with many things and are noted for their sharp tongues. Dog people make good leaders.

Health. Dogs are balanced individuals. They maintain their health through happiness. The quickest way to tell a Dog is sick is to test his character. If he's sad or depressed, it probably means he's ill. He can usually weather any sort of illness, and is prepared to maintain resilience when fighting a disease.

At home with the dog. Dogs like clean residences. Not only straightened-up, but also deep cleaned. Changed sheets, washed clothes,

dusted blinds and wiped down mirrors are only a few of the Dogs weekly chores. His home must be well-organised and easy to navigate all of the time. Dogs want to be comfortable and take luxury in overstuffed pillows, big, cushy couches and oversized recliners. Although they are open-minded, Dogs prefer to stick with traditional décor when decorating a room.

Dogs make excellent

- Nurses
- Counsellors
- Priests
- Politicians
- Judges
- Clerks
- Police officers
- Psychiatrists
- Scientists
- Teachers

Martley Parish Council

5th December 2005 at the memorial hall

Present: Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp (Chairman), Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear, Cllr. Mrs. M. Randall, Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh, Cllr. Mr. J. Slough, Cllr Mr. G. Coombey-Jones, Cllr. Mr. M. Nott Cllr. Mr. N. Stammers.

In attendance: Mr. T. Pearsall (clerk to the Parish Council),
11 members of the public.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

The chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about Parish business, the following points were raised:

The fireworks display at a private party on 25th November at the Memorial Hall caused distress to several animals and upset residents of Jury Lane and nearby locations. A question was asked if Martley PC could ban such displays. The chairman explained that Martley Parish Council does not have powers to ban displays, but the clerk will write to Malvern Hills District Council to determine their powers and to write to both the Memorial Hall committee and Playing Field Association to determine if permission had been granted for this display. In addition, it will be recommended that for any future display ALL nearby residents are to be informed before the event.

Kingswood Lane has only one grit box at the top of the hill and a question was asked if a further one could be provided following difficulties recently with the refuse collection vehicle. The chairman explained that the provision of such boxes is in the power of WCC Highways, but a surplus box exists by the telephone kiosk in the centre of the village and the clerk will examine its relocation.

Car parking on pavements is becoming a problem both outside the Memorial Hall and Mortlake Drive. Both locations are being obstructed regularly

and often pedestrians are being forced to walk on the highway. The clerk informed the meeting that parking on a pavement is obstruction. An article will be produced for The Villager, before proceeding with enforcement.

The Parish Council Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8:25 pm.

Apologies: There were no apologies.

Declarations of personal or prejudicial interests: The clerk reminded everyone of the need to declare interests and to keep their list up to date. The Chairman and Cllr. Mr. N. Stammers declared an interest in item 10 on the agenda (Memorial Hall insurance)

Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th. November 2005: Minute 162-05, second paragraph delete "Martley" and insert "Malvern Hills". With this amendment it was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

Cold Weather: The Chairman requested the clerk be informed of any person in the Parish of Martley who falls into difficulties as a result of the forecast cold weather.

Risk Assessment: The clerk advised the Council that a Risk Assessment should be conducted on all Council-owned property and assets. It was agreed that the clerk would conduct this and refer the results to the Finance Committee with recommendations.

District Councillor's Report: District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams announced that the single planning committee had been rejected. It is being recommended to the planning committee

that Parish and Town Councils be allowed a full three minutes to speak. The police restructuring responses have been submitted.

County Councillor's Report: County Councillor Mr. A. Davies reported also about the police restructuring and the limited time to respond. He requested that a copy of the tree cutting schedule be passed to Mr. M. Davies Highways. The pelican crossing for the Chantry is due in the 2006/7 budget. The Martley Old Grammar School Foundation granted £10,000 to pupils in Martley.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their attendance and reports.

Correspondence:

1. MHDC: Decision regarding single development control committee.
2. MPD: Letter to Bulmers ref. apple spillage.
3. MHDC: Standards committee agenda 24th. Nov.
4. Worcs CALC: Nuts & Bolts training Little Witley 12th. Dec 7pm
5. Worcs CALC: Area meeting 8th. Dec Priory Lodge 7.30pm.
6. SR Services: Service offer ref. asbestos.
7. Worcestershire Mail.
8. MHDC: Executive committee 22nd. Nov.
9. West Mercia Police: Consultative Document return due 27/11/05 (received 19/11/05)
10. Macmillan Cancer Relief: Fund raising.
11. WCC:Highways News.

12. MHDC: Executive Committee, amendments.
13. RAWN: Invitation to "Your Region, Your Voice" Thursday 8th. Dec.
14. WCC Highways: Report on B4204 between Kenswick and Martley.
15. Sir Michael Spicer: Surgeries 21st. Dec.
16. Bulmers: Reply to MPC letter ref. apple spillages..
17. Herefordshire CC: Reply ref. SCI.
18. WCC: Gritting routes.
19. Acorns Children's Hospice: Donations appeal.
20. Central Networks: Name change and telephone number.
21. CPRE: "Fieldwork"

Planning: applications received

1. Willow Green Cottage, Willow Grn. Erect single storey rear extn. Cllr Mr. D. Cropp. (Planning meeting 21/11/05 no objections)
2. Sandyfields, Kingswood Lane. Proposed agricultural workers dwelling to replace mobile home. Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp. (Planning meeting 21/11/05 no objections, but some conditions on the existing mobile home on the west of the site).
3. Hilltop Fm. Horsham, partial demolition and conversion of existing oast house; Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor
4. Fair View Willow Road, replacement dwelling; Cllr. Mr. M. Nott

Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn:

None.

Finance:

There were 9 cheques totalling £1241.00 for agreement and signature
Income October 05:

Lengthman Oct 05 : £350

Total: £350.00

Current Bank Balance, Lloyds TSB
19th. Oct 05, £10,012.93

Actual position 5th.

December 05, £8179.24

It was resolved to make donations under Sect 137 LGA 1972 to:

Macmillan Nurses £15.00

Air Ambulance £15.00

Prior to debate on the subject of finances of the Memorial Hall and the Playing Field, Cllrs. Cropp and Stammers left the room and the meeting was conducted by Cllr. G. Taylor (Vice Chairman)

It was resolved to grant £500 to The Memorial Hall and £492.47 to The Playing Field Association (similarly to previous years).

The acceptance of the finances was resolved.

Cllrs. Cropp and Stammers returned to the meeting.

Parish Plan: It was reported that the first meeting had taken place and that consultation with parishioners will commence.

Dog Fouling: It was agreed that an article would be produced for publication in The Villager.

Waste Bins: It was agreed that The clerk would discuss the price with the

clerk from Wichenford.

Parish Paths Warden Report:

The clerk read out the report which is reproduced as addendum 1.

Urgent Decisions since last meeting:

The was none.

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

Parking around the edge of the playing field.

Seat around the tree near notice board.

Parking around the centre of the village

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 10th. January 2006 at 8 p.m.

The chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meeting closed at 22.07 hrs.

Addendum 1

**Parish Paths Warden's Report
November 2005**

Eight of us worked on November 20 and this time we focussed on repairs and maintenance to footpath hardware rather than clearance.

First, we tackled a missing signpost at the side of B4204 (FP 20). It was a magnificent morning with trees covered in hoar frost, jolly cold too.

Second, Chimney Lane, subject of a big clearance effort in September, saw us installing two-way mark posts, several steps and signage. For those not knowing the whereabouts of this route, the name is one used locally (Brays) for the old track from the bottom of Kingswood Lane, to the right side of the drive to the last house. It runs below a wild, open hillside showing

much incidence of landslips and slumps, before appearing at the edge of woodland overlooking the old weir (FP 51/52).

After coffee, provided as always by Audrey Trumper, we moved on to replace a signpost near Rogers Coaches (FP42) and then rebuilt a wooden bridge below Chantry School (FP43).

JSN 2nd December 2005

***Services at Martley
Post Office***

Banking Services: On-line banking for the following banks; Alliance and Leicester, Barclays, Lloyds TSB, Co-operative Bank and UK Smile. For each of these banks you can pay money in, pay cheques in and withdraw money all free of charge. For all other banks, the use of a cashpoint is available for a small charge of £1.50.

Travel Products: The new ECIH card, which replaces the E111. This is a card to provide free medical cover in all EEC countries. Low cost travel insurance with kids go free offer and annual cover all issued over the counter.

Phone Services: Post office home phone where line rental is guaranteed to be cheaper, a leaflet is available in the post office. Top up cards for pay and go, also E top ups and the new 3 top ups; also cards for landlines for cheaper calls.

Flowers and gift cards: These are new services, information available at the post office.



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Flower Rota

8 January Mrs P Webb
12 January Mrs S Richards
19 January Mrs S Richards
26 January Mrs J Andrews

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship will meet at Pam Webb's home on 17 January at 2.30pm, weather permitting. Please ring 01886-888325 to confirm.

Benefice PCC meeting

The Benefice PCC meeting is to be held on 28 January, time and venue to be arranged.

The things our mothers used to say
"Why?" ".....because it's good for you"
".....because I say so"

Wichenford 100 Club

November winner was Mrs R Banfield who won £109. Ticket no. 172.

Millennium Green tidying and inspection rota

January: Jan Pantan.



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council meeting

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 22 November 2005 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Councillor Britten-Long chaired the meeting.

Declaration of acceptance of office/ undertaking.

Mr A Chilvers was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to the councillors. He was asked to sign the declaration/undertaking before the meeting commenced.

Apologies and approval of absence

District Councillor B Williams.

Declaration of interest

None.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2005 were accepted and signed as a true record. Proposed by Councillor Stinton seconded by Councillor Wells.

Progress reports

Bottle Bank

The clerk explained that she has received an email from Malvern Hills and is waiting for them to return her email with some dates to meet.

Planning

The Parish Council will return to Malvern Hills the SCI submission document with its comments.

The Parish Council would like the clerk to write to MHDC asking why a grade 2 listed building has now been de-listed.

Applications received for comment since the last meeting.

None

Decisions made by MHDC

Single Storey extension to existing house and conversion of garage, at Cockshoot Farm, Wichenford. This application has now been withdrawn

Finance

The income/expenditure account was discussed and accepted.

There were three cheques totalling £950.23 for agreement and signature.

The parish length man has already been paid for the month of October.

Budget

The clerk produced a draft budget that was sent out to councillors to study for discussion at the parish council meeting. It was resolved to keep the precept for 06/07 at £6,500.

The amount in grants will be reduced by £100 to £500, stationery/books reduced by £100 to £150, hall rent reduced by £20, Cllrs expenses reduced by £50, contingency reduced by £50 to

£200, running of council reduced to £200, lengths man expenses reduced to £50. Audit fees were increased by £20 and the clerks salary was increased by £116 in line with the NALC revised pay scales.

Councils charter

Adopted and signed by the Parish Council.

Highways

A reply from Mr A Moore at County Hall regarding the extension of the temporary TRO's at Rosses Lane and Guises Lane was discussed.

The council was given a brief account of the meeting regarding the traffic calming measures for Ankerdine Hill. The weight limit will come into force on December 4th.

The Highways Partnership Review email for information only. The County Councillor discussed this in his report.

It was suggested that the clerk write to the HPU regarding the surface of Barbers Lane, which appears to be worse when it is icy.

It was suggested that the lengths man from both the parish of Martley and Wichenford could spread the salt when icy. (Clerk to ask)

Masons Arms landscaping.

A letter has been written to MHDC regarding the landscaping at the front of the pub. (Letter distributed in corres folder.) The clerk was asked to enquire about the timber porch and the hard-core that has been placed at the front of the new wall.

Councillors' training

Cllr Chilvers and the clerk will attend the Nuts 'N' Bolts (4) at Little Witley on Dec 12th. No one can attend the meeting at noon on 15th Dec re Proper Precepting.

To report any urgent decisions since the last meeting

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

Correspondence included:

MHDC proper officer networking event, Worcestershire Warden Letter, Sir Michael Spicer Private Interviews, Central Networks Christmas Lights And Decorations, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, worc Calc Insurance, Worc Calc Precepting, WCC Free Composting Clinics, WCC Local Transport Plan, Training Courses, Countryside voice Magazine, Rural Housing Enquiry, Highways Partnership Review, MHDC Police/Community Consultative Group.

Calc Mail (distributed at meeting)

Village Halls Asbestos Management Plan (Cllr Stinton)

Parish Link Latest report.

Councillor's report

Large pothole reported on the corner of Queens Way.

Write to BT asking for the verges to be reinstated at Poplar Road.

Date and venue of the next meeting

10th January 2006 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Democratic half hour/public question time.

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

parish business.

A parishioner asked if the parish council had received the report on the B4204. From conversations that had taken place the major proposal that he was suggesting consisted of road lining that will give some indication of the road narrowing, but statutory speed limits would be preferred by residents on this stretch of road.

The clerk spoke to the highways department on Monday 21 and they were putting the report in the post. It should reach me tomorrow and will be on the agenda for 10th January 2006.

District councillor's report

The district councillor did not attend the meeting, but sent a written report. West Mercia Police are facing significant restructuring. MHDC members have been consulted for their opinion.

It has been decided to leave the two area planning committees as they are with all members representing their areas. I would like to thank the parish council for their support on this matter. I am sure that your parish council is aware of the outcome on the Masons Arms planning application.

County councillor's report

Councillor Davies reported on the restructuring of the West Mercia Police Force. There are currently 43 forces and the government want to reduce this to only 12. West Mercia draft proposals are to merge with the West Midlands. West Mercia wants to stand alone if possible. There is concern that the Shire Counties may be faced with funding this.

The police restructuring 'Have your say document' will be completed by the Parish Council Chairman. The definitive maps are now being sent out. The corporate plan will be distributed in the next few weeks that will have the priorities of the county council for the next four years.

The highways department will report back to the parish council following its meeting regarding Ankerdine Hill traffic calming measures. The Highways Partnership Review is still being debated and is not yet in place.

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

New Year Biblical word puzzle (answers on page 28)

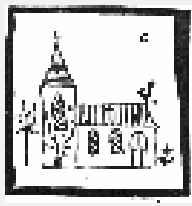
**43 · Feasts and Celebrations,
Biblical and Christian**

V	A	W	T	S	T	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	U
R	A	Q	C	F	I	N	G	A	T	H	E	R	I	N	G
A	S	M	N	R	O	N	Q	S	K	E	E	W	L	N	Z
E	C	U	U	E	V	W	E	P	X	R	N	E	S	O	M
Y	E	P	S	T	U	V	A	M	G	O	A	O	F	I	D
H	N	M	T	S	R	W	I	N	I	V	S	J	P	T	O
T	S	A	I	A	X	R	O	T	E	T	H	U	A	A	E
A	I	E	H	E	U	O	A	N	R	U	W	B	S	I	P
B	O	M	W	P	M	C	E	U	O	Q	E	I	S	C	E
B	N	Q	E	W	I	D	M	E	R	R	D	L	O	N	N
A	T	U	E	D	B	P	F	H	N	J	N	E	V	U	T
S	J	N	E	R	E	T	E	A	O	Q	E	E	E	N	E
Q	W	D	E	T	V	U	C	G	E	F	S	G	R	N	C
G	C	A	S	L	D	L	T	H	Y	B	D	C	F	A	O
A	D	U	V	T	E	G	F	R	I	D	A	Y	W	Y	S
X	A	L	L	S	A	I	N	T	S	T	Y	N	O	M	T

ALL SAINTS
ANNUNCIATION
ASCENSION
ASH WEDNESDAY
CHRISTMAS
DEDICATION
EASTER
EPIPHANY

G(ood) FRIDAY
HARVEST
INGATHERING
JUBILEE
LENT
NEW MOON
PASSOVER
PENTECOST

PURIM
SABBATH YEAR
TABERNACLES
TRUMPETS
UNLEAVENED
BREAD
WEEKS
WHITSUN



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

A new year brings new hopes, sometimes new fears. Whatever lies before us as Christians, we know God is with us and will walk by our side whatever we face good or ill.

During 2006, the group of Churches I look after (the benefice of Martley Wichenford and the Lower Teme Valley; Broadwas, Cotheridge and Knightwick), will be holding special services on the second Sunday of each month that reflect all we go through. These services will include healing services, songs of praise, a celebration of marriage, even a pet thanksgiving service and others. Something we hope for everyone; this is, of course, alongside the usual pattern of worship we hold each week.

That usual pattern includes traditional 'Prayer Book' services as well as contemporary services of worship and family worship for all ages. There is something that we hope enables all to draw near to God and to know him by our side in every circumstance of life. Why not in 2006 come along to a service and let us enjoy worshipping the living God together? Someone said to me recently, 'there are more Christians outside the church than inside'. If that is you, then why not come to let us all be encouraged by meeting with one

another as God would want. For as that year unfolds it would be good to go through it with others of like mind and faith.

With all the busyness of life, it is good to reflect on the one who came to us in Jesus, lived among us, died and rose again for us. There is so much more to know of God, let's explore his depths together.

**2nd Sunday in 2006,
special services**

January 16, Youth Service,
6.30pm at Martley

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Author Unknown

*To leave the old with a burst of song
To recall the rights and forgive the
wrong;*

*To forgive the thing that binds you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's
past;*

*To have the strength to let go your
hold*

*Of the non-worthwhile of the days
grown old;*

*To dare to go forth with a purpose
true;*

*To the unknown task of the year that's
new,*

*To help your brother along the road
To do his work and lift his load*

Dates for January 2006

- Sunday 1st Jan 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Wichenford
- Tuesday 3rd Jan 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Thursday 5th Jan Pastoral Care Meeting – at the home of June Lawrence
- Saturday 7th Jan 9-10.30 Benefice Prayer Group at St Peter's Martley
- Sunday 8th Jan 8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
10.00am Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.00am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley
11.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
11.00am Diocesan Plough Service at Claines
8.30 Prayer Breakfast at Jill Smith's
6.30-7.30pm Meeting re Confirmation Course at the Rectory
- Wednesday 11th Jan 10.15 Holy Communion, Heaton House
- Thursday 12th Jan 2.00pm Little Minnows at St Peter's, Martley
- Sunday 15th Jan 8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley
9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge
11.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
11.00 Morning Worship, St Peter Martley
11.00am Morning Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel
6.30pm, Youth Service, St Peter Martley - tbc
- Monday 16th Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter Martley
- Tuesday 17th Jan 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Wednesday 18th Jan 7.30pm Wardens Meeting at The Rectory
- Saturday 21st Jan 2.00-5.00 & 7.00pm Scalextric in Martley Village Hall
1.30-4.00 Go West workshop at St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
'Uncovering Your Story 1204-1539'
- Sunday 22nd Jan 8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley
11.00am, Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
6.30pm, Evening Worship, St Peter Martley
- Monday 23rd Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Tuesday 24th Jan 4.30pm Evening Prayer at St Johns Parish Church
- Wednesday 25th Jan 10.15 Holy Communion, Heaton House
- Thursday 26th Jan 12.00 Mother's Union AGM at Murial Coombe's
- Saturday 28th Jan 9.30-12.30 PCC Away Day at The Guesten, Worcester
- Sunday 29th Jan 10.30am Candlemas – Benefice HC at St Peter Martley
- Monday 30th Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Leonard's, Cotheridge

In the Garden



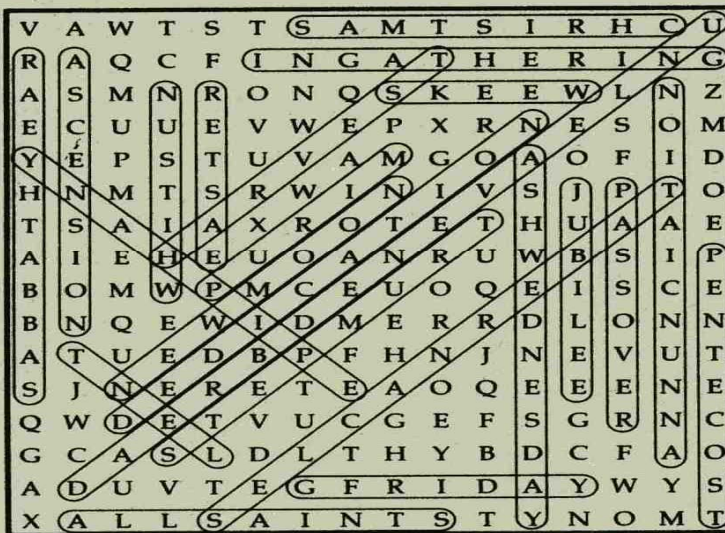
Gardens can prove a real life-saver for birds at this time of year, especially when it is frosty or snowy. Birds become bolder, venturing into gardens in search of scattered scraps and well-stocked feeders and bird tables.

Fallen apples can still be a good food source, which you can supplement with sliced fruit from the kitchen. You may be lucky enough to see more unusual visitors, such as fieldfares and redwings looking for berries and fruit in cold winter weather.

If you walk through woodland at this time of year you might hear a woodpecker hammering on dead wood, hunting out insect larvae in the bark. If you see a flash of red it's likely to be a great spotted woodpecker. These attractive birds may venture into larger urban gardens, especially if you leave dead wood or provide a peanut feeder. Winter gardens aren't necessarily dull you can provide interest in your garden at this time of year with the coloured stems of dogwood and willow, or white stemmed birch. You could add one winter flowering shrub to your garden, such as Virburnum bodnantense, or Sarcococca. For more please log onto www.rspb.org.uk

Below: answers for the word puzzle.

43 · Feasts and Celebrations, Biblical and Christian



Village Contacts



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