

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 20 No. 8

January 2011

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

## **Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:**

### **Sundays**

#### **2nd Sunday in the month:**

**Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick  
**Martley Ramblers** meet Church car park

#### **3rd Sunday in the month:**

**Path-or-Nones** meet 9.30am Martley Memorial Hall car park to help maintain the local footpaths

### **Mondays**

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

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

### **Tuesdays**

**Short Mat Bowling:** 2.00pm Martley

Memorial Hall

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

**Martley Toddler Group:** 1st and 3rd  
Tuesdays (term time) 10.30am Martley Memorial Hall

### **Wednesdays**

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

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

**Martley WI:** 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm Heaton House

### **Thursdays**

**Wichenford Wine Club:** 3rd Thursday in the month

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

See Church Words p. 27 for details of services

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

See the Diary page on [www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk) for a complete listing of all forthcoming events (that the Diary page editor knows about)

See page 28 for contact details of organisations

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

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

# **OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY**

Visit our website—[www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk)



## ***Martley Village Hall***

I would like to thank the Committee for all the hard work they have put in over the past year.

*Neil Stammers  
(Chairman Village Hall)*

## ***Martley Recreation Association and Parish Council***

We are applying for a lottery- funded grant under the Changing Spaces/ Community Spaces scheme. We thought of a big item –a MAPA- (Multi-Activity-Play-Area) which would be 12mx22m, with a wooden fence around and an ‘all weather’ pitch to put on the playing field at right angles to the football pitch. This facility would be an asset to all ages, and lots of different sports, including, tennis, badminton/volley ball, football, netball/basketball, skateboarding, learning to ride a bike or just for self-organised games. Young families would have the play area and MAPA to play on, teenagers would have lots of healthy fun and a social meeting area and older people could exercise gently or with their grandchildren!.

Also we are trying for a few new items for the play area. We have only recently heard about this grant, which has to be in sent in very soon as the first stage of application finishes 7 Jan 2011.

We need your opinions, hopefully positive, as we feel our playing field would benefit from a multi-sport facility. We also need your HELP with the grant if we get through to the next stage of the application. If we are not successful we will try for a different grant. Martley Recreation Association would love you to come and join us. Contact for help joining the grant committee and for booking the field: [pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk) 01886 888406



***Martley WI***

**Martley WI - Wednesday 12**

**January 7.30pm at Heaton House**

We are pleased that Helen Coombey-Jones has been elected President for another year and will be guiding us through 2011, our 90th birthday year,

with the very able assistance of secretary, Mary Kipping. Marion Cumella has arranged a very interesting programme for 2011 and there is a wide variety of speakers and activities offered. Members have been out and about on County activity days, organising and taking part. This month we may be more relaxed after some busy months helping to raise funds for Troop Aid grab bags and for our own funds at the Christmas Fair. So we hope to sit back and watch another of our talented members, Pat Crook, demonstrate Felting. She says she would be very happy to organise classes if members would like to try it themselves. We are always pleased to welcome anyone who would like to come for a taster of WI activities - and that does not mean just jam and cake-making. Please come along – it is a lovely warm and comfortable meeting place in the lounge at Heaton House.

PS We will have a new logo next month.

*Kate King*



### ***Martley Amateur Dramatics***

Martley Amateur Dramatics would like to wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and hope that you will round off the festivities with a visit to our Pantomime “Dick Whittington and the Doctor” which will be performed in Martley Village Hall January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> also with a matinee on the 8<sup>th</sup>. We are sure that you won't be

disappointed so come along and cheer and boo!

T i c k e t s available as usual from the village shops and The Admiral Rodney.



### ***Teme Valley Children's Centre***

**All New Breastfeeding Chums Group:** Teme Valley Children's Centre is pleased to announce the re-launch of its Breastfeeding Chums Group. The main aims of the group are to raise the awareness of the health benefits of breastfeeding and to provide support and encouragement for breastfeeding mums in our area. Breast milk gives babies all the nutrients they need for the first six months of life and provides protection against many different infections and diseases. It reduces a mother's chances of getting certain diseases later in life and women who breastfeed return to their pre-pregnancy figure more quickly. Also, breastfeeding allows the mother and baby to get closer, both physically and emotionally. So while the baby is feeding, the bond can grow stronger.

Our new Breastfeeding Chums Group will run fortnightly at Cob House Fisheries, Wichenford, from 10.30am until 11.30am with the first group meeting on Friday 14 January 2011. On hand at the group will be Anna Adshead, a trained Peer Supporter and mum of two. She will be able to give help, advice and support to anyone who needs it. For more information please contact the Children's Centre on 01886 812982 or email kate.alt@barnardos.org.uk



### **Martley & District Horticultural Society**

The Society held its AGM on 25 November. Mike Dunnett welcomed members on this chilly night and gave a demonstration of root pruning, advising on suitable plants for this and the further care of them. He also produced seeds of the 'Handkerchief Tree' and advised on planting - a very slow growing plant indeed - we shall need a clause put in our wills for this. Members were offered two or three each to try. Hyacinth bulbs for the 31 March competition were given out. Mike's 'Showa' gardening gloves (bought off the net) were admired. RHS raffle tickets were on offer, and a large pile of free gardening magazines were soon snapped up! Then came the business meeting.

Mike went through the year's events - a pretty full one, with excellent talks and trips and everyone pulling their weight too; we now have 49 members! All the Officers and Committee remain the same with the addition of Brian Finch to the Committee. John Jefferies got a special mention for masterminding the erection/dismantling/packing of the marquees at the show.

President Pat Finch thanked everyone for their efforts and especially Mike for his superb chairmanship. The programme for 2011 was read out - sounds really exciting. January's talk will be on beekeeping. Refreshments and a competition to guess names of famous gardens from photos (plus an exhibition of our own garden photos) made it an enjoyable evening.

*Tina Steele*

*(Note from Editor: The Horticultural Society has a new logo too and it will appear here soon )*

### ***Martley Ramblers***

#### **Sunday 9 Jan 1pm Church car park**

At the recent AGM members were sorry that Pam Bowers resigned after 11 years as our very able Secretary/Treasurer but she will still be rambling with us. Pauline Mills has offered to be Secretary and Richard Mills will be Treasurer, while Harry King remains as chairman.

The programme has been arranged for 2011 and the first walk is around Worcester Riverside. Car parking fees will be applicable in Worcester, so drivers please bring some change with

you. This walk should be on the level. Starting times in 2011 do vary a bit, depending on the time of year and the distance to be travelled to the start, so please check your programme. Details will also be on the Martley web. Fingers crossed for good weather. Weren't we lucky for the November walk, the last of the season, a dry, sunny day with good autumnal colour?

*Kate King*



### ***Pudford Tweets***

At the time of writing, early December, the Pudford Glacier is forming and who knows at this stage for how many weeks it will last? Constant running water is nothing new as locals of former days always said it was the wettest lane in Martley. It has probably not been helped by the 2002 earthquake opening up the fault line across Pudford Lane, running up to The Nubbins. It is called the Line of Disturbance, but this may only refer to trying to keep warring residents apart, not that we have any such problems these days.



*Kate King*

### ***In Memoriam Brian Woodburn***

Brian Woodburn died on Monday 29 November. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends and did so much for this community and as Churchwarden of the Church of St. Peter worked tirelessly. His faith was evident for all to see and carried him into the arms of Christ. We thank God for him and remember him with joy. Our love and prayers go out to Chris, and Nick, Karen, Abi and Esther, Stuart and Jade, and Lorna and Frankie.

### ***In Memoriam Ursula Nellist***

Ursula Nellist was also a dearly loved member of the church and community. Having lived in Lulsley, Horsham and Wants Green, she made many friends. She worshipped at St. Peter's for 62 years latterly taking her communion at home. She did not miss a Harvest Festival in that time, her last service being 2010 Harvest Service. She will be remembered with love and thanksgiving. Our love and prayers go out to Sons Roger and Stewart and his wife Catherine and sons Thomas and Edward and sister Doreen.

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

Unapproved draft edited record of the meeting held on 7 November 2010  
**Democratic Period/Public Question Time**

A discussion was held between Councillors and a representative of

Martley Recreation Association. A separate meeting will be called between Martley Recreation Association and Martley Parish Council. In the meantime Martley PC's Clerk and Martley Recreation Association's Secretary will meet to discuss the community spaces.

**Minutes:**

The minutes for the previous Parish Council meeting were approved with one correction.

**Outstanding actions from previous minutes:**

The Clerk will continue to investigate: the authorisation of cycle races and the herbicide spraying; and will discuss the Local Youth Forum with the Police.

**Progress Reports:**

The Clerk: clear sites will be marked on a map to be displayed on the village board as a temporary measure. Highways report - submitted. Outdoor Smart Water pack - ordered. SPORT Martley had left a message with a future date for a meeting. District Councillor Williams passed the appropriate contact details to Councillor Metcalfe to contact SPORT Martley. YIMMS - update and a new contact name given. Freedom of Martley boards - Mr Cropp has been thanked and now the boards need updating for the 2010 recipients. Litter Warden - bank payment to be set up. 2009/2010 annual return - update at the next meeting. Milestone - will be cast at Bliss Hill Foundry at Iron Bridge; Councillor Fearnough to confirm

the milage to be displayed. The Clerk will contact MHDC Tree Officer regarding the land outside Heaton House. Lengthsman: will look at Hollins Lane, clear the lay-by each month, repair the grip by the sawmill and improve the area opposite Rogers coaches. Training: the Clerk has amended the standing orders to show delegated power for urgent decisions and planning to be addressed by full council.

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

County Cllr Davies reported that: Worcestershire County Council have requested information on maintenance requirements on the rights of way. WCC needs to save £66 million over four years in compliance the Comprehensive Spending Review; WCC are considering the possibility of aligning with Cheltenham, Gloucester or Birmingham; MHDC are also considering alignment.

**Meeting dates for 2011:**

Dates were agreed and will be published and nearer the time. The Annual Parish Meeting will be highlighted in The Villager and on the village notice boards.

**Planning:**

*New*

10/01360/HOU Shelton House, Newtown – Extensions and modifications to existing residential dwelling.

10/01135/FUL Tomkins Farm, Hope House Lane – Residential conversion of attached barn and upgrading of house.

*Pending*

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

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

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

*Refused*

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

**Finance:**

There were five cheques totalling £664.15 approved. The precept will be considered by the Finance Working Group.

**Councillors reports and items for future agenda:**

The Clerk is to write to a) Highways regarding the potential danger of the metal railings sticking out at Kenswick Manor at the junction of Willow Road and the B4204. Councillors asked that the Parish Council information on the website be updated; b) to the footballers following concerns raised by parishioners regarding parking on the road and the use of foul language.

**Date of next meeting:**

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month (public holidays excepts).

***Martley's Past***

Parish Councils came into being on 4 December 1894, and the first Parish

Meeting met on that date in the Board Room of the Union Workhouse. Col A D Currie (of Laugherne House) was elected unopposed as chairman of the meeting. Sixteen nominations for nine seats as councillors were handed in; one in favour of Col Currie, who then withdrew his candidature. After a few questions from electors, they then voted by a show of hands, and Mr J G Rogers, Mr Wm A Rogers, Mr J Rowley, Mr R Threlful, Mr J Davis, Mr R S Nash, Mr J Dovey, Mr W Caswell and Mr R Dowding were elected. So Col Currie was not an elected councillor. The first meeting of the elected Parish Council was on 17 December 1894. Apart from voting down (5-4) that the public should be admitted to meetings, but agreeing to reporters being present, and attending to procedural matters, the meeting closed.

The second meeting on 17 January 1895 set up procedures and a committee to look into the provision of allotments. 26 November 2010, at the time of writing, Martley still has no allotments!

*Alan Boon*

**Martley Library Opening Times**

Monday 2—7 pm

Wednesday 4—6 pm

Thursday 10am -1 pm

Friday 2 - 4 pm

Saturday 10am -12 noon

01886 888396 (*opening hours only*)



# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews  
01886 888303  
Sheila Richards  
01886 888378



## *Church Flowers*

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

## *Ladies Fellowship*

The next meeting of the Ladies Fellowship will be on 18 January, weather permitting. Venue to be decided.

## *Thank you—From Frank and Mu*

Frank and Mu would like to thank their lovely family, friends and neighbours for all the cards and best wishes on the occasion of their Golden Wedding and for helping to make it an extra special day. Thank you all.

## *Kenneth Gerald Grosvenor*

Ken had lived in Wichenford all his life; the Grosvenor family have lived in the village for many decades. Ken attended Wichenford School and then went on to the Bluecoat School as a

boarder. He was very musical and learned to play the piano and this became a lifelong pleasure. He had many interests; a love of horses and a keen interest in horse racing. He also enjoyed motorbike scrambling. He was a great animal and bird lover, always concerned for their welfare. Ken had driven coaches for many years, including the school buses and was a very popular driver.

We send our deepest sympathy to Dorothy and to all the family. Ken will be sadly missed by us all.

## *Gardens Wanted*

Wichenford Open Gardens weekend will take place on 25 and 26 June 2011. This has become a major fundraising event benefiting both village organisations and St Richard's Hospice, Worcester. Each time we open we become more well-known, attract more visitors and raise more money. In 2009 we were able to give away close to £8,500, and obviously we should like to improve on this result in June 2011.

However, to achieve this we need more people willing to open their





gardens to our visitors (they like to see 'new' gardens as well as ones which they have visited previously), and we like to have a variety of gardens to 'show off'! So, hopefully, we're appealing to everyone living in Wichenford and its surrounding areas – please consider opening your garden – we're after gardens of all types and sizes – large and glamorous is fine, but small and interesting is equally as valuable, and odd and quirky is a bonus!

If you feel that you would like to take part, or help in any way at all, please contact one of the following – you will be welcomed in spades, (as well as forks and trowels)! Alan Green 01886-888158 Mary Hyland 01886-888431 Sheila Richards 01886-888378 Judith O'Leary 01886-888253.

### ***Wichenford 100 Club***

Congratulations to our November winners of the Wichenford 100 Club 1st prize to Sue Vale and returned subscriptions to A Smith and Mr Catmur. Drawn by Jank Spiers

*Clair Corbett*

### ***Nora Parsons Day Centre***



We have had a busy few months at Day Centre since I last <sup>Nora Parsons Day Centre</sup> did a report.

Volunteers have been working hard fund raising – something that needs to be a continuous process in order for us to continue to flourish. We had a most successful auction which raised just under £1,600. Thanks to all who donated items or promises and particular thanks to Dave Bradley for being such a fantastic auctioneer. He extracted money from people and they still enjoyed themselves!

We changed our Christmas Fayre from midweek to Saturday - unfortunately a bitterly cold day - but we still raised around £500. Again, thanks to everyone who helped and supported us. When you read this we will have had our Christmas Lunch on 16 December with our annual visit from Santa, had our winter break and be ready for re-opening on 3 January.

Once again – can I appeal for any volunteers to either drive or help at the Centre? Drivers can do as little as one journey per month and an allowance of .40p per mile can be paid.

*Janet Dale  
Secretary*

### ***Thank You—From Shirley, Melvin and Tom***

Shirley, Melvyn and Tom would like to thank their wonderful family; friends and neighbours for the kind

messages; support and offers of help over the last few weeks. It has been a very emotional time and it is comforting to know that we are surrounded by such genuine people in Wichenford. The village really knows how to pull together in a time of crisis and it makes you realise how lucky we are to live here. I would like to thank the very kind lady who held Christopher's hand and man who contacted us and the emergency services. You know who you are and we are eternally grateful to you.

I am pleased to report that Chris is now home, being waited on hand and foot. He is not very mobile but is progressing slowly. Thank you all once again.

### ***Notice Regarding Hedgecutting***

The Environmental Services Department of the Worcestershire County Council have informed Parish Footpath Wardens that, if a footpath signpost or fingerpost is accidentally cut down during hedgecutting and the pieces are removed from the site, then the Footpath Warden has to report the post as having been removed and effectively "stolen". In turn, the County Council will record the post as "stolen" and this ends up on the Police List of Stolen Items which is referred to by insurance companies when assessing parish insurance premiums, hence any increase in removals or deemed "thefts" may unfortunately increase annual premiums. However, if the damaged pieces are left by or in

the hedge the Footpath Wardens can report the item as simply having been damaged and a repair can be carried out at no cost to the parish. So please, when an accident does occur, and several fingerposts have recently gone missing in Wichenford; do leave the remains where they can be found and recovered. Replacements can then be requested from the County Council. Finally, if you do not cut hedges mechanically yourself, but employ a contractor, please advise them of the situation before they begin work. Thank you.

*Heather Rendall*

### ***What's Happening at Cob House?***

*Yummy Mummy Mondays* – 9.45 to 10.45 - Join us for just a coffee and a chat or join in with the Fundamental Movement group – great fun for the young ones.

*Tuesday – Senior Citizens Special* – small carvery and dessert with tea or filter coffee, for £5.99

*Mobile Library* – this will be visiting us every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 1.30-2.12pm.

*Fishing* – Coarse Fish for £6 (up to 31st Dec) £6.20 (from 1st January), Trout fishing also available. Wednesday affordable open match £10 all in, Saturday open match £15 all in.

*Usborne Books* – 2nd Saturday of every month.

*Breast Feeding Chums Group* – 10.30 to 11.30 – Every other Friday starting on the 14th January. Contact Kate Alty, Teme Valley Children's Centre

01886 812982 (also see article on p.11)

*Breakfast and Coarse Fishing* – Monday to Friday take advantage of a full English Breakfast for just £3.75 with complimentary toast and filter coffee/tea included and if you would like, enjoy a days coarse fishing for just £4

*Fish Movements* – with the movement season well into swing, if you know someone with a garden pond or fishery that would like to top up their stocks, let us know.

*Angling Academy* – if you are doing a bit of online shopping please help us raise money for the angling academy, just go to [www.buy.at/CHAA](http://www.buy.at/CHAA) where you will find hundreds of retailers waiting to give us some money!

*Come and see the animals* – come and

meet Minty and Molly the Kune Kune Pigs, Jabba and Kwai the Alpacas, Prancer and Dancer the Reindeer - not to mention the Chickens, Ducks, Rabbit and Guinea Pig – Entry to the animals FOC

*Spy School* – 21-23 Feb 2011 and 31 May to the 2 June 2011

*CSI Experience* – 11-15 April 2011

*Adventure Experience* – 8-12 August 2011

*Archery Range* – Coming Spring 2011

*Help for Hero's Charity Day* - 2 May 2011 – watch out for further details

*Snowman Competition* – providing you can leave home safely and we have snow (!), pop along and create your masterpiece, judging will take place daily.

Check website for up to date events [www.cobhouse.org](http://www.cobhouse.org)



*Reindeer at Cob House*

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

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 22 November 2010 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

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

PC Hood reported on the emails received regarding the trail-rider bikes through Rosses Lane. It seems this is now happening on a Saturday. The signs have also been turned round. Both of these are prosecutable offences so must be reported.

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

District Cllr Williams reported on the

RSS which the coalition government revoked. This has implications for work on the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy (SWJCS ) which has been based on housing figures from the RSS (Regional Spatical Strategies). The South Worcestershire authorities welcomed this move as now the three councils can create a new plan on local housing aspirations. The work carried out under the SWJCS must not be lost. So the South Worcestershire development plan will be launched. Malvern Hills District Council has joined forces with four other councils in Worcestershire to combine purchasing power and get better value for money for residents. It is anticipated that the new arrangement will deliver between 5-10% in savings. This will be achieved by jointly seeking contracts for goods and services which ensure stronger influencing powers and sharing expertise across all the local authorities. Cllr Williams asked the parish council to explain the diversion for footpath KS507 as she has been asked for her comments.

County Councillor Davies believes the proposed diversion of footpath KS507 is crazy. The original route has been abandoned and a new route has been proposed by the applicant as it was felt by various parties that the suggested diversion was less convenient to walkers as it was longer. The parish council will write again to WCC and reiterate their comments in the first response given and ask that common sense prevail and have the preferred

route follow the headlands. Work on Holt Bridge will begin in January for 15months; the bridge will remain open but will operate on a traffic light system. Worcestershire Hub are concerned that the elderly in rural areas are not getting what they are entitled to. Broadheath are very concerned about the growth of Worcester. A planning application is now at Malvern Hills for 3,200 houses and a decision is being made on it in December. The gritting routes have now been decided. There were 800 locations suggested for salt boxes but only 200 boxes are available. The parish clerk will be contacted with the locations.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

#### **Progress Reports**

Overgrown hedge at Willow Road: There has been no response to the letter and the hedge has still not been cut. The clerk is to write to the landowner again. Parking on B4204: This seems to have now stopped and is no longer an issue. The white posts at Kenswick were done and a letter was received within 10 days from the CC to say they must be removed as they would be liable if someone hurt themselves. New posts have now been erected by WCC.

#### **Planning**

*Applications considered since the last meeting.*

10/01169/CPU Heatherlea, Wichenford.

The parish council had no objections

to this proposal.

*Applications approved, refused, withdrawn.*

None.

*Applications to be considered.*

None.

### **Finance**

The balance for the 29 October 2010 stands at £13,143.00. There were three cheques totalling £1,070.12 for agreement and signature. These included the clerk's salary and expenses and rent for the memorial hall. Wichenford Churchyard Grant: The parish council unanimously agreed to give a donation of £400. NPDC: The parish council agreed to pay for the work on the oak tree at the day centre. It was agreed that cllr Rendall should be reimbursed for the grass cutting on Kingsgreen.

### **Budget**

The budget for 2011/2012 was accepted and the precept request for £7,000 will remain the same.

### **Rosses and Guises Lanes.**

This has been discussed with PC Hood. Several emails have been written to Mr Oliver at the CC and there will be a meeting with the parish council; contractors and the Highways Department before any work commences. The parish council would prefer that nothing is done as it seems a waste of money during a very difficult financial time. Cyclist and horse riders have managed for many years and it seems ludicrous that widening is needed.

### **Gritting Routes**

Venn Lane and Horn Lane are now on

the list of routes. There have been 800 requests for salt boxes but only 200 will be available.

### **Vehicle Activated Signs**

The clerk was asked to establish the cost of the vehicle activated signs with the possibility of owning our own. The signs must be used on poles that are already in existence and will be in each parish for a maximum of two months. The pc agreed to sign the contract as the scheme will start in January.

### **Councillors' Training**

Councillor Panton has attended meeting on the Regional Spatial Strategy.

### **Councillor's Reports and Items For Future Agendas**

The parish council were asked if they would agree to the lay-by on the B4204 at the bottom of Castle Hill to be cleared as it is full of brambles which are overhanging the verge. It was suggested that the footpath wardens contact the Countryside Centre and ask if they could qualify for the Payback scheme. The council also had no objections to bird and bat boxes being erected on the footpath.

The parish council agreed to approach landowners about the mud on the road. Landowners should make sure that an agreement is made between them and their contractors about the responsibility before work commences.

### **Date and Venue of Next Meetings**

Meetings were arranged for 17 Jan, 28 Feb and 11 April 2011



*The Villager would like to  
wish all its readers a very  
happy 2011*

**Mobile Library 2011**

**Ockeridge**

Silver Oaks 9.45–10.05

**Wichenford**

Malvern View 10.10–10.35

Church 10.45–11.05

Kings Green Farm 11.15–11.40

Rosses Green 11.45–12.05

**Martley Hillside**

Horn Lane Bungalows 12.10–12.25

**Martley**

Taylor's of Martley 12.30–12.45

**LUNCH**

Heaton House 1.20–1.50

Church 1.55–2.15

**Clifton**

Village Hall 2.30–3.50

The Mobile Library will be visiting these stops on Wednesdays on the dates listed below in 2011:

12 January	21 February	23 February
16 March	6 April	27 April
18 May	8 June	29 June
20 July	10 August	31 August
21 September	12 October	2 November
23 November	14 December	

*The Mobile Library will also be visiting  
Cob House Fisheries every 3rd Thursday  
1.30-2.15pm*

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

***A Wing and a Prayer***  
***(A true story)***

He lay by the fastened window  
Eyes closed beak open. Motionless.  
How many days trapped and  
helpless?  
Gently she picked him up and felt a  
faint tremor.  
A little soul departing?

She ran to the tap and with a small  
teaspoon  
Fed him droplets.  
Nothing. Nothing. Nothing and  
then a slight flutter.  
And he drank and drank and drank  
The life giving water.

His eyes opened he stretched his  
wings and  
Unsteadily miraculously he flew up  
to  
His prison door.  
She opened the window and the  
little Lazarus soared  
And she soared too.

This morning a blue tit tapped at her  
window.  
Was it he?  
Of course not.  
But secretly she knew.

HH



**Burns Supper with Scottish  
Country Dancing**

**Friday 28 January 2011**

**Martley Village Hall**

7.00pm for 7.30pm prompt start

*A fun evening to  
celebrate the life and works of Robert  
Burns, Scotland's finest poet*

We will start with the meal:

Cock-a-Leekie Soup

Haggis (or vegetarian haggis), Neeps,  
and Tatties, with vegetables

Or Vegetarian mushroom stroganoff and  
wild rice

Tipsy Laird (sherry and whisky trifle)

Coffee and Mints

*(Catering by Cobwebs restaurant Evesham)*

**Entertainment will follow the meal  
including readings and poems of  
Robert Burns**

**ALL WELCOME.**

Tickets £20.00 per head. Cash bar.

*This popular event was a sell-out last  
year so please book early to avoid  
missing out.*

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

**Tickets can be obtained from:**

**Sheila Richards 01886 888378;**

**Gill Richardson 01905 425652**

**James Hyslop: 01886 888359:**

**Yvonne Pearce 01886 821959**

Organised by the local Church of England churches  
for the community and sponsored by New Alphabet  
Group. Profit will go to local charities.

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

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

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

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



**From the Editor**

***A Plea to all Cat Owners***

As I write this, snow is covering the  
ground and temperatures are  
plummeting to a record low, and  
according to the Met Office, worse is  
to come. Refilling the garden bird-  
feeders and thawing their water has  
become a twice-daily routine. I love  
birds. I worry about them. I want them  
to flourish. They are as important to  
my wellbeing as the food in the  
feeders is to them. I could not imagine  
a world without them. Now here's the  
rub. I share my house and garden with  
four cats. Today, they lie snuggled in

the house, in hibernation mode, not really wanting to go out. But increasing numbers of neighbourhood cats are lurking outside, waiting to pounce on any hapless bird. It is, of course, what cats are programmed to do. By feeding our garden birds and providing a suitable habitat, we help many more to survive and breed the following year. But feeding stations in the garden also attracts cats. The remedy? Responsible Cat Ownership. Please don't get me wrong. I love cats, and have been privileged to share my house with many over the years. But I have trained them not to stalk and kill birds. A carefully-aimed squirt of water from a washing up liquid bottle has always done the trick. (Do keep out of sight or they might think you are trying to drive them away from you, which is not the plan)! And during those times when birds are at their most vulnerable, I keep them inside. (This is not always 100% foolproof-the odd cat has been known to sneak out at night when I wasn't looking)! But I try. Yes, I hear you say, but birds of prey also kill and eat birds don't they? But small birds are the only source of food for birds of prey, and they need to eat to survive. We feed our cats, so they don't need to catch small birds to survive. But in the end, some of you may have read the RSPB statement; "Despite the large numbers of birds killed, there is no scientific evidence that predation by cats in gardens is having any impact on bird populations UK-wide.

AH

## *The Shelsleys Educational Supplement*

### **Medieval Journeys**

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

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

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





# In the Garden



## In the garden January

January and February are our coldest months: the lowest-ever temperature recorded in England was -26 in January 1982 in a Shropshire valley. You need to watch the weather forecasts so that you can protect your vulnerable plants from frost and protect young evergreens from cold winds that can scorch the foliage. Cold air is denser than warm, so it rolls downwards and collects at the lowest points. Look out for these 'frost pockets' in your garden and avoid them when you are planting tender plants or fruit trees.

It is not too early to start thinking of sowing seeds if you have a frost-free greenhouse, conservatory, or even a spare bedroom window-sill. Summer plants which need a long growing season, such as pelargoniums, begonias, lobelias and snapdragons, can be started off towards the end of the month, also sweetpeas. Vegetables such as aubergines, peppers and onions also need an early start but for most others it is probably best to wait until late February when better light-levels produce stronger growth. Now is the time to

force rhubarb and also strawberries. Bring on a few strawberry plants under cover to give you an early treat. Winter pruning of fruit trees and bushes, and grape vines, needs to be completed soon. Follow with an application of organic or slow-release fertiliser, which feeds the plant but avoids too much growth early in the season when it may be damaged by a cold spell.

Many ornamental climbers need pruning at this time of year. This includes wisteria, vines, ivies, Virginia creeper, Boston Ivy and climbing hydrangeas. By cutting sideshoots back close to the main stems you will prevent them invading your window frames and gutters later in the year. If you have overwintering fuchsias they should be pruned hard and repotted now, when they start into growth move them to a light position and water more often.

Shrubs to look out for in January: for colour, gold, orange or red stems of dogwoods and willows. For scent, the winter-flowering shrubs such as Daphne, Viburnum, Witch hazel, Sarcococca and Wintersweet.

On Twelfth Night, -6 January, is the Wassail in Herefordshire. This is the blessing of the apple orchards to ensure a good crop of cider apples in the following autumn. In the Leominster area there is a torchlit procession and a blessing ceremony followed by a Mummers play. For details see [www.leominstermorris.co.uk](http://www.leominstermorris.co.uk).

JC



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# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Another new year arrives with all its hopes and dreams, with the anticipation of all that lies before us. We know only too well there will be joys and sorrows, fears and happiness: all these emotions confront us throughout the coming year. If we knew what was ahead of us we would probably find it difficult to cope. For some of you, you know what lies ahead is the happiness of a wedding or a birth or another celebration. For others there is the fear of illness, the loneliness of grief and other adjustments to life that need to be made. We may reflect back over the past year with the regrets of mistakes made, with the joy of things we have done and achieved, perhaps you passed an exam or celebrated some other achievement. We are often going to be affected by the past as we look to the future, yet there is some good advice from St Paul who said, "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Phillipians 3:13-14). This is a good principle to hold within



our minds as we look towards the positive things that lie ahead for us. It also means that we do not go alone into the future, but with others by our side, and it is helpful to know that God is with us also. But what about the difficult times? I am reminded of what was said of Jesus by the writer of Hebrews, who said, "Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross. (Hebrews 12:2). There is some mystery in this verse that beyond suffering there is joy that only God can bring and the joy that awaits us in eternity. God is with us in our suffering in the here and now and goes with us whatever we face. We can be assured that he himself endured suffering for us and that within the suffering we face it is comforting to know he understands. May we in this year ahead commit ourselves afresh to him and walk in his way and press on for that goal which Paul spoke of: the upward call in Christ Jesus and look unto him for our help. May God be with you throughout this year. God Bless

*David Sherwin*

## Church Services for January

SUN 2 JAN	8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.30am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mon 3 Jan	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tue 4 Jan	10am Holy Communion – St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
SUN 9 JAN	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.30am Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Mon 10 Jan	8.30am Prayer Breakfast at Jennifer's.
Tue 11 Jan	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 12 Jan	10:15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
SUN 16 JAN	8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley 9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.30am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10.30am Morning Worship, St Peter Martley 3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel 4.00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence Wichenford
Mon 17 Jan	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tue 18 Jan	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
SUN 23 JAN	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley 10.30am Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter Martley
Mon 24 Jan	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tue 25 Jan	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 26 Jan	10:15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Fri 28 Jan	7.30pm Burns Night Supper – Martley Village Memorial Hall
SUN 30 JAN	11.00am WWRT Holy Communion at St Edburga's Church, Leigh, with The Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev David Walker





# Village Contacts



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Martley Recreation Association (playing fields)	<i>Bookings</i> —Pat Owen 01886 888406 pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk
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Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431
Wichenford Local Heritage Group	Heather Rendall—01886 888239

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

# *And finally ...*

Oh look! No cracker jokes!  
*Thank goodness!*

## *Little Witley's January film*

**Little Witley's January film is *Brideshead Revisited* and is showing on Saturday 22 January 2011.**

This latest adaptation (2008) of the novel by Evelyn Waugh centres around the memoirs of Captain Charles Ryder who is stationed at Brideshead Castle during WW2 and remembers his involvement with the owners. Excellent re make. See details of the Little Witley Film Society on the Leisure page of [www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk) or phone Jean Latham on 01886 888888122 or Bob Jose on 01886 888383.

