

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 14 No. 2

July 2004

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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

Diary for July

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

- Thu 1 **Deadline for articles for August issue of The Villager**
- Fri 2 **Martley Ramblers Barbeque** 8pm at the Fox and Hounds, Lulsley
- Mon 5 **Martley Parish Council Meeting** 8pm Memorial Hall
- Sun 11 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers around Martley to Eckington. Meet 2pm Church car park
- Wed 14 **Martley WI: Mr Colin Bowden talks about “Caricatures and Cartoons from Hogarth to Giles”** 7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall
- Thu 15 **Wichenford Wine Club** Garden Party
- Fri 16 **School term ends**
- Sun 18 **Path-or-Nones Working Party and Walking not Working.** Meet 9.30am The Crown car park (or thereabouts)
- Sat 24 **Wichenford Fete** 2pm
- Thu 29 **Martley & District Horticultural Society:** Summer Meeting at a member’s garden

Articles to go in The Villager must be with the Editor by the 1st of the previous month

OUT AND ABOUT I N MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



Martley Parish Council

An Ordinary Meeting of the Martley Parish Council was held on Monday 7 June 2004 at the Memorial Hall, Cllr Mr. D. Cropp Chairman. Also in attendance: Mr. T. Pearsall (Clerk), County Cllr. Mr. A. Davies and 11 members of the public.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

A complaint was received about the overgrowth of hedges in Church Lane; the Lengthman will investigate. A question was asked about the light overspill around the proposed conservatory at Heaton House. The Clerk explained that limiting the light spillage had been mentioned on the planning application. The problem of overgrown hedges was mentioned in respect of the turning to Horsham Lane; the Lengthman will investigate

Development Working Party

The chairman invited Mr. I. Pennell (member of the working party) to address the meeting. The village survey results were given. It was clear that greenfield development was not wanted. The results of the survey will be released and placed in the public

domain (full details will be obtainable from the Clerk or the web site martley.org.uk). It was resolved that this council would object to any application to develop a greenfield site.

Duties of Councillors

The planning areas to remain the same with Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh taking over Hollins Lane, Hope House Lane, St. Peters Drive to Mortlake Drive. Parish Councils no longer provide representation on schools governance. Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor will join the Old Grammar School Foundation. Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear will continue with Heaton House and Shanks Waste Management committee. Cllr. Mr. N. Stammers will continue with Neighbourhood Watch. The Chairman thanked all councillors for their commitments.

Willow tree Badgers Close

The Lengthman outlined the problem: this tree had been declared dangerous by a representative of MHDC, but a search had failed to discover the landowner. Legal opinion will be sought from MHDC regarding responsibilities. Expressions of

interest for tendering for the removal of this tree will be sought.

District Councillor's Report

District Cllr Mrs. B. Williams was unable to attend, but had asked the Clerk to mention that she is now on the Main Planning Committee and is still on the Elgar Housing committee.

County Councillor's Report

A comprehensive performance survey had been undertaken and Worcestershire had been given a "Good". Schools are carrying £M14.2 in reserves and this will be investigated. The traffic problems on Ankerdine Hill still await the residents' views. The county-wide Lengthman scheme will start in July. 43km of road has been top-dressed.

Parish Paths Warden Report

The PPW was not able to attend therefore no report was given.

Planning

1. 04/00719/OUT Taylors Yard. Cllr.Mr G. Taylor left the room. The Clerk was instructed to note several issues with this application, these will be passed to MHDC Planning. Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor returned. 2. 04/00655/LBC & 04/00643/FUL Brook Court: No comment. 3. 04/00834/FUL Old House Farm :No comment.

Planning Committee Report Affordable Housing Draft Local Plan was circulated.

Approved/Refused/Withdrawn:
04/00427/FUL The South Stables Hill Top Farm Horsham. Withdrawn.
04/00504/LBC The South Stables Hill Top Farm Horsham. Withdrawn.

04/00485/CLE Laugherne Slade Berrow Green Road Cert. of lawfulness. Approved. 04/00432/LBC East Outbuildings Hill Top Farm Horsham. Granted.

The Clerk read out a letter from a resident of Jury Lane ref. affordable housing; this will be passed to Mr. Alan Saunders MHDC.

Finance

There were eight cheques totalling £1381.44 for agreement and signature. Income May 04 £350.00. Expenditure April 04 £1384.44. An honorarium of £20.00 will be granted to each of the organisations who had displays at the Annual Parish Meeting. It appears that the website registration with EU Registrations may be fraudulent; Cambridgeshire Police are investigating. The Clerk has demanded the return of the fee.

Correspondence

Included - WCC Bus and Information Strategy. Community Action Malvern Volunteer Drivers. Sir Michael Spicer Surgeries. BT reply to call box letter. G. Herbert Banks ref. village development. MHDC relocation of planning reception. Resident of Jury Lane enquiry ref. social housing. Neil Sparkar ref. Local Enterprise support. Crown Inn transfer of licensee. MHDC reply to clerk's letter ref. Refuse collection. Clerk's letter to MHDC ref. Caravans Lower Hollins Fm. Emails to EU Registration.

Councillors Reports and Future Agenda Items

The Wither Beds Church Lane there is

a possibility of long term lease for management and development of wild life. Church Lane widening: the Clerk to write to WCC Highways rescinding this. An article is needed in The Villager reminding land owners of the need to keep their hedges trimmed from the road and footpaths; the Chairman to arrange. A problem is developing with a gully on road edge of B 4197 near the pumping station nearly opposite Vernon Close; the Lengthman to report to Highways. The level of lighting at the Referral Unit is too great throughout the night; the Clerk to investigate with WCC if this can be lowered. Barbers Lane, there is an ash tree threatening to fall onto the road; the Lengthman to investigate and report as required. Neighbourhood Watch is progressing, but the police have not visited this council for some time; the Clerk to invite. The grass in the field next to The Crown is very long and unsightly; the Clerk to contact Evertons.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Monday 5 July 2004 at 8 p.m.

Tom Pearsall, Clerk
01886 888256

The following reports may be viewed in full on the martley website (martley.org.uk):

- *Martley Parish Council Chair's Report May 2004*
- *Report by Cllr Barbara Williams (MHDC)*
- *County Council Report 2003/2004 by Alwyn Davies, County*

Councillor

- *Parish Paths Warden Report to Parish Council by JS Nicklin, Parish Paths Warden*

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting of Martley was held on Saturday 15 May 2004 at the Memorial Hall. In Attendance: nineteen parishioners, Cllr. Mr. D.Cropp (Chairman of the Parish Council and chairman for this meeting) Mr. T. Pearsall (Clerk to Martley Parish Council and clerk to this meeting). The meeting was opened at 3 p.m.

Report by the following people and organisations were presented: Martley Parish Council Chairman, Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp; County Councillor Mr. A. Davies; District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams; Memorial Hall Report; Martley Primary School Report, Martley Recreation Association Report; Penny Hill Liaison Committee Report; Millennium Green Charitable Trust Report; Sport Martley Report; Parish Paths Warden's Report; Martley Parish Council Finance report; Parish Charities Report. Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp delivered the Charities Report saying it is a most joyful occasion when money is given out to local people for a variety reasons. The Trust has changed due to the rules on charitable trusts and investment changing. Forty grants had been given. It is gratifying when the recipients write let us know how they are

progressing. Over £11,000 has been given out.

These reports may be read in full on the Martley website (martley.org.uk) or on application to the Clerk.

Development

Several questions referred to the proposed development to the rear of The Crown. The Chairman explained the proposals in detail and mentioned that the developer had promised not to take the scheme forward unless they had the full support of the Parish Council; the recent survey would help the Council form its opinion.

Allotments

The Chairman explained that the acquisition of land for allotments was proving difficult.

Millennium Green

The issue of planting trees on the Millennium Green was raised and it was noted that the Parish Council does not control the decisions of The Millennium Green Trust, however it was thought that it would be useful to discuss the issue with The Trust with a view to arriving at a mutually acceptable solution.

The Chairman Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp thanked all for attending.

Village Development Survey

Thank you to all of you if you returned your survey form. Approximately 260 out of 500 were returned, a rate of about 52%, which is excellent, and gives us a real opportunity to assess



Kate King and Gwyn Darby set up the WI display at the Annual Parish Meeting

the views of Martley as a whole. We will also be including all the additional comments as a way to understand other aspects of development or village needs that you wish to be considered.

Hopefully with this issue of The Villager you will have an insert with the results, but if not, it will definitely be available for August. (This article was written at the end of May)

Dave Cropp, Chair, Parish Council

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 11 July 2pm

We have been lucky to have two bluebell walks this year, both with banks of bluebells, anemones, ramsons and many other spring flowers to “ooh and aah” about. Thanks to David Wilkes and guest leader Barbara Seers for showing us these lovely sights so near to our own doorsteps. This month

the Walker Family will be leading us in circles around Eckington somewhere we have not visited for several years. Cars leave the car park at 2pm. The summer BBQ has been arranged for Friday 2 July at the Fox and Hounds, Lusley, the cost being £5.

Kate King



Martley WI

It has been a busy time over the last few weeks, with entries for the Federation Spring Show, arranging the WI exhibit at the Parish Council AGM and just getting out and enjoying ourselves. Eileen Stammers won a first at the Spring Show with her wine. Congratulations, the co-operative entry was not placed but got a creditable 97 marks. Sometimes it is hard to understand how the minds of the judges work, but we keep trying.

Many thanks to all who helped in any way and provided items for the exhibition at the Parish Council AGM. A few more visitors would have been appreciated. A visitor from Ireland, who is President of her own Institute, was particularly interested and took copies of our programme and activities to show to her members. The village Scrapbook for 1965 aroused most interest, many villagers fearing to see photos of themselves when young. Perhaps another could be done, now we are in the 21st Century. The

speaker this month is Mr Colin Bowden, always a good entertainer, talking about "Caricatures and Cartoons from Hogarth to Giles". If you didn't get rid of all your funny/unusual items at our garden meeting, bring one along for the competition.

Kate King

Martley & District Horticultural Society

On a lovely sunny Bank Holiday Saturday, Society members held their Annual Plant Sale and Car Boot Sale. The event was very well supported and stall-holders were kept busy by enthusiastic gardeners. Thanks to everyone who donated plants and to everyone who helped during the day. The event raised £763 for Society funds. Schedules for the Society's twenty-eighth Annual Show on Saturday 21 August at 2pm in the Village Hall and Playing Field, are now available. They can be collected from Central Stores, Martley Post Office or a Committee member. This year there are 89 classes, and 17 trophies to be won. If you haven't any garden exhibits, why not try making a 'Pound Cake' or an 'Orange Wholemeal Victoria Loaf'? Recipes are supplied in the schedule. Or what about entering a jar of homemade jam or marmalade, or a bottle of homemade wine? Let's have a record number of entries this year.

Nellie Bradley

Martley Library Link

It's open! Your Editor, a keen reader and news-hound, turned up shortly after the appointed opening time (see below) on Friday 11 June to investigate. Volunteer Eileen Stammers was there with supervisor Anne from Stourport Library and was able to practice issuing a library card for real to my good self.

Initial Library opening times are:

Monday 2pm-5pm

Wednesday 12am-6pm

Thursday 10-12am

Friday 2-4pm.

Tel. 01886 888396

It is hoped that in future there will be opening on a Saturday and one evening as well, but this needs the kind services of more volunteers (*could that be you?*).

The library is situated in the committee room at the Martley Village Memorial Hall. It provides reference books, biographies, romance fiction, large-print books and a selection of books for children as well as novels to suit many tastes. If what you want is not there, you can order books from the entire collection of Worcestershire Public Libraries. Also you can return books borrowed from any Worcestershire library.

If you already have a card for Worcestershire Libraries you don't need to re-register. Just take your card along to borrow up to 12 books at a time.

As well as books, the Martley library

has two modern computers with Microsoft Word and Excel, a printer and access to the Internet, that you can use free of charge. Don't forget, the Martley website address is martley.org.uk

If you need help to use the computers or access the website, help can be provided. Ask one of the volunteers or one of the website committee members.

It is hoped soon to have available complete sets of back-copies of *The Villager*, space permitting.

Michelle Higgins

Welcome!

Another two families moved into Laugherne Park - Karen and Stewart Mountfield and Mark and Julie Pritchard with Children Rebecca and Daniel. We hope they enjoy life in Martley.

Trefoil Guild

We met at the home of Sue Ganderton. The speaker was Helen Garfield of the Worcestershire Society for the Blind. She told us about moving their premises from Wyldes Lane to what was the old postal sorting office in Sansome Walk, now called The Bradbury Centre and how they have 120 volunteers for their Home Visiting Scheme. She had lots of gadgets to show us that help to make life more comfortable for the visually impaired.

The Treasurer reported that a cheque for £85 from our annual "knit in" had

been sent to the Megan Baker Unit, formerly known as The Lee Sykes Unit, in Bromyard and also £55 to Talking Books which was raised by the raffle held at the Golden Jubilee party.

Four of us had attended the County A.G.M. at Whittington where the speaker gave an illustrated talk of her nine month tour of South America.

Geraldine Cooper.

Tombola Prizes

Don't forget to look out unwanted presents and so on to donate as tombola prizes for the Martley and District Horticultural Society Annual Show and Fete on Saturday 21 August. Collecting these items will take place in August. (*But donating food items – bottles and cans etc. – that are past their sell-by date is not very nice— Editor*)

Well Done Helen!!

Playtex Moonwalk 2004

We are writing to say thank you to everyone who sponsored our daughter Helen for the Playtex Moonwalk, in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer and the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, which took place on Saturday 15 May 2004.

Helen and 15,000 other bra-clad women set off at midnight from Hyde Park to walk a full 26.2 mile marathon around the sights of London. They set off through Hyde Park, down past Buckingham Palace, Harrods and the Albert Hall before crossing the river to

Battersea, continuing along the Thames past the London Eye, Globe Theatre, across Tower Bridge and west along the embankment. They walked past the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben and continued along the Thames back to Buckingham Palace and Hyde Park for the finish.

We met up with Helen and her walking-team mates at around 6.00am on the Sunday morning, by which time they were just passing the 16-mile marker and were then on hand every couple of miles to provide much-needed moral support, encouragement and refreshments!

Helen and her team mates crossed the finish line at 9.36am on Sunday morning and she collected her well-deserved medal.

This walk was a huge challenge for Helen and something she did not think she would ever achieve due to ill-health with rheumatoid arthritis and a serious back condition, but she trained hard and persevered and we are so proud of her achievement.

With the sponsorship from the people of Martley and Wichenford, Helen has now raised nearly £1,100.00 for these charities and Helen has asked us to pass on her sincerest thanks to you all.

*Eileen & Neil Stammers
Prickley Green*



Update on The Crown

At the time of writing, building work has just started on The Crown. When completed, there will be a 100-seater restaurant, increased space for car-parking and a bar for locals—so those who live in Martley who don't drive, or who don't want to drive, will still have a "local" to visit.

It is planned to re-open The Crown about October—November 2004.

The Presentments of 1673 and 1674, St.Peter's Martley

"Our Parish Church is in sufficient repaire only at present a little defact ('defective') by reason of the late casting of the bells in the belfray of the church aforesayd but will be beautify by the succeeding officers" William Browninge and John Gyles, Churchwardens 1673

"In answer to the 1st Table of the booke of Articles all things therein enjoynd are observd, excepting a little bell worth as we suppose 30£ or 40£ taken away by the old ch.wardens to help to pay for the casting the old bells that were broken".

Edward Ingram and Anthony ----, Churchwardens 1674

Martley Resource Centre

There has been some confusion over the entry via primary school premises to use the Resource Centre. Following a recent Health and Safety check, some concern was expressed by the

Local Education Authority and the school Governors over possible unauthorised entry of school premises during school hours to gain access to the centre. Members of the public wishing to use the centre should, please, first get the keys from Alan Boon in the normal way and then check with the school administrator at the school office.

*Kate King, Clerk to the Governors,
Martley Primary School*

Pudford Lane

Summer is fast speeding away. The sheep have been shorn, fleeces are worth marginally more and market prices are improving. The SSSI's have once again had a magnificent show of orchids. After the range of early spring flowers followed by the orchids, the cut in late July leaves just low and apparently dull herbage, with viewers asking what all the fuss is about.

Pudford Poultry Enterprises have had a mini population explosion. Some doubts were expressed about the masculinity of the cockerel, due to the unusual timbre of his crowing. But there was a 50 percent hatching. Is this significant? As there is to be a Pelican Crossing by the schools in 2005, should there also be a Duck Crossing by the Post Office to reduce some of the traffic hazards? Perhaps some public spirited resident could provide a duck sanctuary, subject to planning permission from the Parish Council.

Kate King

Hedge Cutting

It was brought to my attention by an unsigned notice sent through the post, about trimming my hedge. Only the new shoot of the hedge was done with great care to make sure no nesting birds were disturbed. As a member of the RSPB, I sought their advice. I do not cut the main hedge until September where there are many nesting boxes in use. My garden has been planted with a great variety of shrubs and trees, which feed the birds berries and seeds. As a result, I have a great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch, tree creepers, all types of thrush, finch, tits, even a marsh tit paid a visit this spring. There is also a colony of slow worms that is given a habitat. So, whoever made it their business to interfere, must look in their own back garden to see if they provide as much.

*Caroline Roberts
3 Hollins Lane, Martley*

Chantry News

It is July. Dare we say, a month of celebration for pupils and teachers alike as the end of the current school year approaches: long holidays for pupils and lots of preparation for next year's classes for the teachers - "You! Boy at the back - stop laughing". School Closes on Friday 16 July at 1.30 pm.

Social Events News

For the Friends, the fundraising continues and the social events for next school year are being finalised.

At the time of going to press, we do not have details of what was raised from the Barn Dance on the 19 June, but hope to pass that on in August's news.

Chantry Garden Project

This is on-going. The intention is to approach a local horticultural college for advice on suitable software for the design phase. Also to investigate the possibility of the students studying Garden Design mentoring Chantry pupils through the development of the project.

Broadband Update

We're nearly there! Check out the Martley website for the latest news (martley.org.uk).

This month in Martley a hundred years ago: July

This month in Martley in 1904, at the quarterly meeting of the Parish Council, the Chairman, Col Currie, reported that the Council had the sum of 4s 7d (23p) in hand. A precept for £2 was made. (£1-4s-7d was still in hand at the end of the financial year!). *ALB*



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Altar Flowers

4 July No Service. Ordination of
Revd Jennifer Whittaker in
Worcester Cathedral
11 July Mrs S Richards
18 July Mrs J Andrews
25 July Mrs A Banks

Wichenford Fete

Saturday 24 July at 2pm

Please can you begin to look out suitable items for the stalls and tombola. Bric-a-brac, books, plants, produce, cakes are all welcome items. Best of all, do come along and join in a traditional village Fete and a chat over a tasty tea in the Village Hall. For all details, please phone Janet Andrews on 01886-888303.

Wichenford Ladies Fellowship

A complete change of venue in May took us to Mamble cum Bayton in the glorious Teme Valley for the Annual Gathering of the Association of Churchwomen's Fellowship in the Diocese of Worcester. Around 80 ladies (and some menfolk!) joined in a lovely service, conducted by Rev Stephen Owen. This was followed by



**Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378**

a delicious tea in Bayton Village Hall. Reports were given by members of Fellowships around the County, showing the strength and commitment to our Faith and Communities. In June we made a visit to Webbs Garden Centre at Wychbold. July and August are holiday months, so no meetings until September.

With Deepest Sympathy

We are sad to report that Jo Wasley, a young wife and mother, has died. We extend heartfelt sympathy to her husband Stephen, and children Charlie and Millie in their sad loss.

Millennium green Tidying & Inspection Rota

July: Gerald Barber.

Get Well Messages

We are sorry to hear that Carole Griffin has not been well, but we are pleased that she is now making good progress. We send best wishes for a

speedy recovery. Our very best wishes go to Greg Basterfield, who has had an operation. May you make a steady recovery to full health.

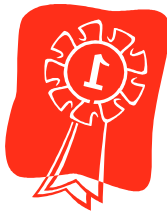
Thank You

Thank you to family, friends and neighbours, also our Rector and Curate for their visits and enquiries following my recent eye surgery. A special thank you to Dixon who was marvellous as he had to do everything. I am pleased to say that I am now well on the way to a full recovery. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all my relatives and friends for making my 65th birthday such a special and happy event. Thank you for all the flowers and gifts I received which can only be described as overwhelming. Once again special thanks to everyone.

*Margaret H Fisher
Witton Hill, Wichenford*

Wichenford 100 Club

May winner Will Pearce.
Ticket 186. £112.



Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 10 May 2004 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford. Councillor Britten-Long chaired the meeting.

Election of Chairman – The current chairman Georgina Britten-Long was asked if she would like to continue in this position. Councillor Britten-Long agreed to carry on for another year.

Election of Vice Chairman – Councillor Randall agreed to carry on for 12 months as no one else wanted to take on this position.

Nora Parsons Day Centre – G Britten-Long, J Panton, K Randall and D Stinton were elected as Parish Council Representatives. Environmental Pollution Officer – G Britten-Long agreed to continue in this position.

Footpath Wardens – Councillor J Wells and Councillor H Rendall remain as wardens. Snow and Flood Warden – Councillor N Oldfield was happy to accept this position.

Memorial Hall Committee – Councillors G Britten-Long, K Randall and D Stinton were elected. Worcestershire CALC Representative – No one was elected to this post.

Every councillor receives the CALC mail and is entitled to attend the meetings.

Reports

District Councillor B Williams reported that at the AGM Jill Dunn was elected as the new chairman and

Val Myatt the vice-chairman. Unfortunately she has been unable to contact Ivor Pumfrey regarding the refuse collections. The Council asked about the inconsistencies in the planning process, and why the planning applications for Units 2 and 4 Rimmers Farm were treated differently when the Parish Council specifically asked for them both to be treated in the same way. It was agreed that the chairman write to David Murray at Malvern Hills for the procedure when dealing with applications. It was also agreed that the chairman write to Chris Bock about the lack of communication from Malvern Hills regarding the parish council's request for the caged refuse truck along Barbers Lane.

Matters Arising

Refuse Lorries – This agenda item was discussed earlier with the District Councillor, and it was agreed that the chairman write to Malvern Hills on this matter. Property Marking Kit – Both marking kits are out and unfortunately they cannot be located. Lengthsman Scheme – Only one application has been received for the Parish Lengthsman position. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write or telephone the applicant for references. The Clerk and Councillor Randall will write to County Hall with points that they would like cleared up before they commit themselves. The Parish Council has yet to approve the hourly rate of pay. They would also like block approval from the Highways

Authority to allow work to be done on the roads that are more than 40mph, as this includes most of the parish. It was agreed that they would like a self-employed person.

Planning

Applications received for comment since the last meeting – Construction of stable and barn (amended plans), Kenswick Manor Lodge. The Parish Council has no objection to this application. New garden wall between 6 and 7 Kenswick Manor. Build and locate shed, replace existing window with patio doors, install 2 Velux windows, 7 Kenswick Manor. The Parish Council has no objection to this proposal. Domestic extension to bungalow, 4 Abingdon Bungalow. The Parish Council consider the area of the extension inappropriately large in proportion to the existing dwelling. The proposed extension covers approximately 1.5 times that of the existing building. There is no mains drainage down Venn Lane. It seems that no consideration has been given to this important point, especially in view of the fact that this bungalow is one of four in a row. Decisions made by MHDC - Alterations to approved scheme to form accommodation in roof, Unit 2 Rimmers Farm has been refused. Demolish existing farmhouse and construct replacement dwelling and garage at Allsett Farm, Wichenford has been granted. Relocation of farm buildings for Rimmers Farm, Wichenford has been passed. Amendments to existing

approval to garage design and provision of new link to each barn to replace glazed link approval, Unit 4 Rimmers Farm has been approved.

Finance

The income and expenditure account was studied and agreed by the Council. The first half of the Parish precept has been received. The annual risk assessment was studied and discussed. The end of year accounts were explained and accepted. The Clerk had received notice that the annual audit is due on 5 July. It was proposed to ask the Council's internal auditor if he would be prepared to do the accounts again this year. The Clerk was asked to contact him.

Replacement key, the clerk explained that the recent litterbin received from Maelor Trafflex did not have a key attached and a replacement was ordered. As a result the company sent an invoice for a replacement key. The chairman agreed to write to the company and explain that the Council is not prepared to pay for something that they should have had in the first place. Winged Fellowship, the Parish Council did not wish to give a donation to this cause. Nora Parsons Day Centre, it was proposed by Councillor Britten-Long not to give a donation at this time unless a request is made from the Day Centre. Wichenford Memorial Hall, the Council authorised the rent payment of £21. In the budget of 2003/4 the Council had put aside £500 for the Memorial Hall that they had not yet

received. As the Council has an income over expenditure of £1,247.16, it was proposed after discussion to give the Memorial Hall £500. Materials for replacement litter bin £10.

Highways

The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Department again to report the signposts at the Masons Arms, and the top of Horne Lane. The latter may need relocating as it is on the edge of the verge and it keeps getting clipped by passing lorries. The Clerk was also asked to remind the Highways that the SLOW painted on Poplar Road is waiting to be moved and repainted on Venn Lane. The lay-by at the bus stop also needs repairing to avoid any accidents. Councillor Wells reported that Footpath 20 is still closed. It was also agreed that the Chairman write to the Head of Environmental Services regarding the delay in the Parish Council getting the 'start-up' grant for the footpath wardens to repair or replace any broken stiles/bridges etc.

Dates of further meetings:

9 August, 27 September, 8 November, 13 December 2004 and 24 January 2005 starting at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford.

Shirley Sanders

Clerk to the Council (01886-888302)

A Need For Tunnel Vision

In the days of Dick Whittington, the only information on the wayside was a series of milestones and a few odd inn or tavern signs hanging outside roadside hostleries. Since then, things have changed, even rapidly in the last few years.

When I was a child, there white lines and finger posts - yes that is what we called them. Nowadays we still have white lines, of course, but they have become broken, doubled and even changed colour.

We have yellow ones, double yellow ones, red ones, diagonal and zigzag ones, yellow box ones, red block ones - I wonder when the green ones will appear. Then we have the necessary "Slow" and "Give Way"

signs but we also have dragon's teeth, Zebra and Pelican crossings, traffic lights and speed cameras, bus and cycle lanes: a complete maze of symbols, as well as the usual warnings, often graphically depicted, such as cattle and deer, frogs and toads crossing, level crossings with and without barriers, low flying planes,

humpback bridges, rocks falling, sharp bends and so on, all illustrated in the Highway Code and rarely seen in this area.

Obviously, we need indication signs for places, motorways and so on, but these seem to have been joined by an ever-increasing number of other coloured signs showing where to find churches, castles, pubs, restaurants, hotels, museums, garden centres, bird sanctuaries, zoos and many other "places of interest".

Add to all these local signs for a point-to-point, fete, farmers' market, boot sale, PYO, rugby club ball, jumble sale, the "For Sale" and "To

Let" estate agents' boards and the signs are just endless. Any driving instructor would tell you to keep your eyes on the road - not even

on your speedometer if there is a speed camera around.

Keeping your eyes on the road seems to call for tunnel vision if you are to avoid the mushrooming growth of roadside distractions which could so easily lead to accidents.

Beth Williams



Experiences in Senegal

Part 3

Intense beauty lies amongst the sad ruins of the former slaving port of Il de Goree; beauty in the decrepitude of the French colonial buildings quietly returning to their earthly origins; beauty in the bleached terracotta, ochre and cobalt blue of peeling paint and stucco; beauty in the time-worn, worm-eaten death-masks of shutters and unseeing windows, abandoned and vacant. Blowzy bougainvillas cascade over the derelict walls in wild, rebellious waterfalls of magenta, yellow, purple and vermillion.



Aware of the historical value of the island and the potential wealth tourism could bring, the local authorities have begun a major renovation project, providing vital employment for local people. Important though this is, to my artist's eye the plastered and painted newness jars alongside the mellow dereliction of the unrescued. But then such aesthetics are the preserve of an affluent minority. Renovation should create better housing conditions, but for whom? Will the impoverished locals be

forced to leave this idyllic place because of increased rents?

Being a white tourist in this place of ghosts disquieted me. I paused while the eager European coach party finished swarming the Maison d'Esclaves. 200 years ago the slave master lived directly above the pens where the enslaved were chained prior to their nightmare journey from their homelands to far off places. Many never made the journey. If they attempted escape, or fell ill, they were discarded into the sea, as food for the sharks. Families were separated, never to meet again. Shackled and yoked like animals, they made their final walk upon their beloved African land through the stark doorway onto the rocks below towards the waiting ships. My Senegalese friend and I drifted silently through the rooms, chills permeating our very souls. Maybe the walls still hold the fear and terror. I prayed for healing love and peace to come to this place and all the memories that it still holds. Kites wheeled overhead, their cries echoing our thoughts and prayers, releasing them into the bleached cerulean sky. A lizard stared, motionless in the blistering heat. And all the time the Atlantic surf rhythmically pounded the rocks below as it always has, unaware of time.

For me, a white and privileged 21st century tourist quietly walking this small offshore island, it was a humbling experience, bringing much food for thought and reflection.

Angie Hill

Reliable Tradesmen

Now the weather is getting warmer, people's thoughts turn to work on the house and garden.

Trading Standards are warning householders to follow some simple rules to protect them from unscrupulous tradesmen' and ensure that they get the work they wanted and expected.

- Ask families, neighbours and friends for recommendations.
- Do not agree to work until you have a comprehensive quote that lists out exactly what work will be carried out, when and the fully inclusive cost. This way you can ensure that you have written evidence of what was agreed.
- Do not feel pressured to accept a quote unless you are happy with it.
- Get at least three quotes from similar businesses.
- Do not agree to any work where the caller says "We are only in the area today".

Remember that any work carried out by a tradesman must be of reasonable quality and completed within a reasonable time limit, therefore if you are not happy with something, raise it immediately.

Ask for information about the tradesman's insurance cover.

Do not pay any money unless you are satisfied that it is of acceptable quality. For certain work, e.g. building, it is wise to contact the relevant federation, they can refer you to local traders who are members, and therefore meet certain standards. Of course this is no guarantee of good work on a particular day.

If you do feel that you have not received the work you expected, or are concerned about the legitimacy of a trader, contact a consumer advisor on 01905 76537:3 or visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tradingstandards, where there is a whole range of leaflets offering advice.

Tel 01905 765349

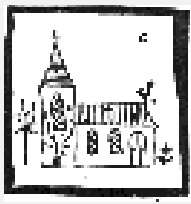
Fax (01005) 765393

DX 29941 Worcester 2

Crenshaw@worcestershire.gov.uk

www.worcestershire.gov.uk





Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

4 July: Independence Day?

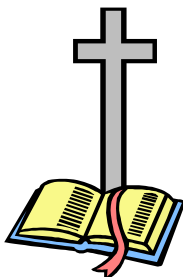
As David has already indicated, on 4 July I shall be ordained priest in Worcester Cathedral. What is it all about? Is it just an excuse for another party? Does it mean I have passed my test and can now throw away the L plates?

At this time last year I was ordained deacon, a role summed up in these verses from one of my favourite hymns:

"Brother, sister, let me serve you. We are pilgrims on a journey, let me be as Christ to you; fellow travellers on the road; pray that I may have the grace to we are here to help each other let you be my servant too. Walk the mile and bear the load."

The priest retains this role of serving while a responsibility for the physical and spiritual well-being of all people within the parish is added. As the ordination service says: "Priests are

called by God to work as servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent." I find this a wonderful three-fold interweaving of God, the task, and you, the



people for whom along with David, our Rector, I shall have greater responsibility. An awesome responsibility! Just as a shepherd leads his sheep and cares for them in every aspect of their life, so is the task of the priest to nurture his/her flock, to be there in the good times and the bad, the happy and the sad, to share the joys and to bring words of comfort, healing and hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ. He is our role-model, the one who was filled with God's Holy Spirit and the one through whom God's love was poured out. He enjoyed sharing meals with his friends, so like him, we shall celebrate and have fun on July 4th.

But is it Independence Day? Not for me. I may now be able to carry out all priestly duties but I shall always be learning, always dependent on those around me who are more knowledgeable and experienced and always totally reliant on God. Nor can I function as a priest without you, the people of the Benefice.

I shall pray for you; may I ask you to pray for me, especially on 4 July as I take on this role of priest.

Revd. Jennifer Whittaker
01886 833897

Services for July

4 July	
Worcester Cathedral	10.30am Ordination Service followed by lunch at The Chantry High School at 1pm
Martley	4pm Holy Communion
11 July	
Wichenford	10.0am Family Worship
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Cotheridge	8am Holy Communion
18 July	
Wichenford	6.30pm Evensong
Martley	8am Holy Communion; 11am Morning Worship
Broadwas	11am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	9am Matins
Knightwick	3pm Evening Worship
25 July	
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
Broadwas	8am Holy Communion; 11am Family Worship
29 Feb	

A Midsummer's Evening



A midsummer's evening is more
 than enough,
 To slowly untangle the smooth from
 the rough,
 A sprinkle of starlight to massage
 the eyes,
 Peace from the moonbeams that
 tickle the skies.
 In such surroundings thoughts will
 walk,
 And rural hearts in joy can talk,
 Of life, of love, of this and that,
 For how they really please to chat.
 A wounded sun just slips away,
 To rest until another day,
 And whilst his shadow fills the land,
 Old Mrs. Moon will lend a hand.
 And in the night time creatures
 move,
 Along a twisting well worn groove,
 Badgers, foxes, rabbits and voles,
 In darkness free to leave their holes.
 And if the wind is clean and strong,
 The leaves will sing their ancient
 song,
 Yet if it blows as but a breeze,
 A gentle whisper combs the trees.
 It is the stuff to soothe the soul,
 An evening in its summer role,
 Calm and gentle, or balmy and wild,
 All mourning can be reconciled.

David Mountjoy

Wichenford Fete

Saturday 24 July

at

2pm



Stalls
Tombola
Bric-a-brac
Books
Plants and produce
Cakes

Come along and join in a traditional village Fete and a chat over a tasty tea in the Village Hall.

For all details, please phone
Janet Andrews on
01886-888303



In the Kitchen



Greek Salad

Remind yourself of those long, lazy days on holiday somewhere sunny with this easy salad!

Serves 4 as an accompaniment to a main meal.

8oz (225g) tomatoes, quartered
4" (10cm) piece of cucumber, sliced
½ a small onion, finely sliced
1 green pepper, de-seeded and sliced
10 Kalamata olives
4oz (110g) Feta cheese, cubed
Large pinch oregano
5 tablespoons Greek extra-virgin olive oil
Salt to taste

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl, toss lightly and serve immediately.



In the Garden



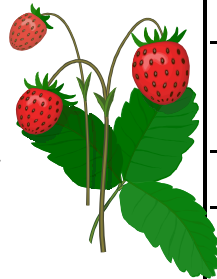
Garden Tips for July

July – the first half of the year has gone by. The gardener’s mind turns to Autumn and Spring 2005.

Crops – plant out purple and white sprouting plants, also Autumn and Winter cauliflower and Autumn cabbage. Sow the seed of Spring cabbage. If your carrot seed failed it is not too late to re-sow in the early part of this month. Plant out leeks. Sow parsley seed and Spring onion seed. Spray potatoes with a copper fungicide to prevent potato blight attacking the tops, and so decreasing the crop.

Time to clean up the strawberry patch: cut all the leaves off the plants and remove all straw and dead material. Take leaf cuttings of begonia Rex, gloxinias and Saint Paulias. Take cuttings of pelargoniums, osteospermums, hydrangeas and fuchsias. Enjoy the harvest from your garden!

Jack Bradley



Village Contacts



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Martley WI— President	Pat Crook 01886 888550
Martley & Dist Hort. Soc.	Mrs J O’Leary—01886 888253
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
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Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Counl.	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Secretary—Mike Holmes 01905 641739
Trefoil Guild	geraldine.cooper@btopenw orld.com