

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 16 No. 1

June 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 at 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

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

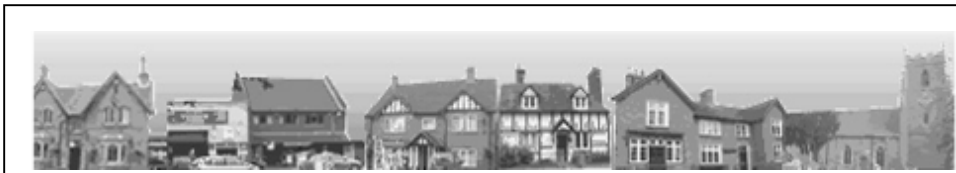
See articles inside for details of special events AND changes of times or dates of regular events

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



Here comes the summer



The summer solstice (21st June) is the day on which the sun climbs to its highest point in the sky. This was originally the day on which

people celebrated midsummer and there is still a famous summer solstice celebration at Stonehenge.

On the night before midsummer, a group of white-robed Druids gather at Stonehenge to watch the sun rising. As it comes up, the sun rises exactly over the Heel Stone, one of the stones that lies outside the main circle at Stonehenge.

With the coming of Christianity, many midsummer celebrations were moved to the feast of St John the Baptist (24th June). St John baptised people outdoors in the River Jordan, so there have always been open air celebrations on his day.

In some places, people light fires on midsummer eve. They stay up until

midnight to welcome in midsummer day, and, when the fires die down, men run or jump through the embers to bring good luck. Don't try this at home!

People thought that midsummer was a time of magic and wonder-working. Evil spirits were said to appear, and people gathered herbs and flowers to protect themselves. One of the most powerful was the plant known as 'chase-devil', which we now call St John's Wort. People used it in potions, and wove the flowers into garlands to decorate their houses or protect their farm animals.

They believed that the herb could shield them from evil spirits and could help them foretell the future. Herbalists still use St John's Wort in their medicines today.

Pudford Lane

The fruit blossom has faded now but what a glorious show it has been this year, the best for 10 years, according to some experts. No hedgehogs have been seen for months, too many badgers around, perhaps. Butterflies and

ladybirds are in greater numbers this year and the spring flowers, particularly the cowslips, have also done well. At the time of writing, some of the residents are suffering a slight identity crisis. Following the theft of nameplates and signs, some of us are not too sure where we belong. We could ask Matron to help us, but we haven't a matron living in the Lane. If the culprits will return the signs, we shall be very grateful and no questions asked.

Kate King

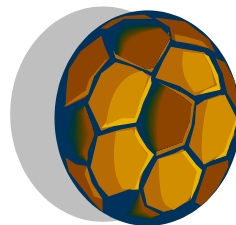
Martley WI –

Wednesday 14 June 7pm Stoneybridge House

Joy and Reg Snow have invited us to their home for our annual Garden meeting, starting at 7pm so that the business can be finished before the party begins. Bring a rose for the competition, a garden chair to sit on and be thinking of whether the draw for the Denman Bursary will include your name. There will be the usual Fun Auction for funds with our favourite auctioneer, although not yet officially asked/told he will doubtless succumb to torture. So bring any unwanted goods, plenty of money to spend on the desirable goods for sale and, of course, husbands, partners, family and friends. There will be food and drink to cheer us during the evening. All we have to do is keep our fingers crossed for a dry, warm evening.

Kate King

Martley Spurs



April was quite a good month for the Spurs, it started with all three teams winning their games over the first weekend with the Saturday Premier eleven beating Welland 3-2; the Sunday Premier side netting three against Exel Metro and the Reserves overcoming New AFC Barbourne. A further win came for the Saturday boys on the 9th when they beat Pershore Manor Rovers, and Steve Prickett netted a pair when the Spurs drew 3-3 with Malvern Radar the next day. The Easter holiday weekend saw the Saturday side beat West Malvern 2-1, but the Reserves lost to Prinner Sports the following morning. The 22nd saw another win for the Sat Premier side when they thrashed Hanley Swan 4-0, Chris Collins and Steve Prickett both netting a pair. There was a mid-week game for the Reserves who drew 1-1 with Pershore Reserves. There are quite a few mid-week games at the moment as well as the Martley Cup final, which will be reported next month.

Martley Ramblers

We were so very sorry to hear of the death of Pam Hill, one of our long-term members. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Colin and family. She was a lovely, friendly lady and will be much missed by all who knew her.

The walk planned for Malvern was cancelled, due to the illness of Pam Southall who was to lead us. She is now recovered from her chest infection. Helen and George Coombey-Jones stepped in and took us on the walk around Dunhampstead and Sale Green that was cancelled due to snow. This time we started in lovely sunshine and only had one hailstorm and snowfall of about 20 minutes before the sun came out again. This was just to prove how fickle April weather can be.

This month we have two walks as we have our annual midsummer evening walk. On Sunday 11 June 2pm, church car park, we shall be following Jenny Underhill along the Rea. Wednesday 21 June 6.30pm, Church car park, we have a 7 pm start at Fox and Hounds, Lulsley. Alex Walker will lead us around the Ravenswood Nature Reserve.

Kate King

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

Full house

The Bingo held on Friday 7 April was a huge success and raised almost £900 for much needed club funds. Some £200 was kindly donated by Mrs Stevens, to be used as was seen fit, and for which we are truly grateful. Our thanks go to Monica Tippin for all her hard work in organising the Bingo itself, everyone who donated the prizes, sold cards, raffle tickets, made refreshments and, of course, all those who came along and made it such an enjoyable evening.

Football league crisis

Bad news at the moment – the Worcester and District Football league is facing a crisis. With the number of clubs setting to fall to 12 next season, the number of divisions is likely to be cut. It appears that League bosses are planning to merge two divisions into just one bigger one. Twenty years ago there were five divisions and a youth division in the Saturday league, but their number have gradually dwindled due to competition from rival Midland leagues.

Beth Williams

Martley & District Horticultural Society

There was a good attendance of members at the April meeting of the Society. The vice-chairman Ray Ellis welcomed everyone and introduced the speaker for the evening, Roy Fowler,

his subject "Barn Owls". Roy has been a member of the "Barn Owl Conservation Network" for 26 years. He illustrated his talk with informative slides. The barn owl never fails to obtain attention, it's an unusual bird that is particularly attractive in silent flight. The population has not increased much in this area in recent years.

With the conservation areas and the margins of land left uncultivated around the arable fields, these areas attract small creatures that help to supply the barn owl with their daily

needs. They mate and remain partners for life. The owls, like humans, don't like cold and wet weather, and will seek shelter in the worst of it. This is when the beams in the old barns become their sanctuary. Unfortunately, due to conversions, these are becoming rarer to find.

The sitting period is rather longer than most birds and the hatching period is 31 days. These birds are great hunters, detecting their prey by sound. They can spot a meal two inches under the snow. Roy was thanked by Ray Ellis

Pre-School snippets



The theme at Pre-School for this half-term is 'Where I live.' We have been enjoying role play such as 'Going to the shop' and 'At the Post Office.' We have also had walks to the garage and church, and are exploring the environment with themes such as birdwatching. A trip to the Severn Valley Railway in Kidderminster is planned for June 21st; this will include a trip to a country park following a wildlife theme.

We welcome Mia John, Harry Pound and Gemma Corbett to Pre-School. We also welcome Mary Griffiths,

who has joined us as a new member of staff.

We are delighted that building work for our new kitchen and toilet/cloakroom has finished. Thank you to all parents and neighbours who put up with the mess and all those who helped with the painting.

The recent Cake Sale made £110. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Our next fundraiser will be a BBQ on the Berrow on Sunday 2nd July. This will be a sponsored walk up Berrow Hill with a BBQ and refreshments at the top. It is sure to be a fabulous family day. For a sponsorship form, contact the Pre-School (889127) or Sally Bowen (888279).

Assistant urgently needed

We are still looking for a Pre-School and an After-School Club assistant. Anyone interested should contact Kath on 01886 889127.

for a most interesting talk. The next meeting is on Thursday 29 June. This is an evening visit and meeting at two members' gardens. Please meet outside Martley Village Hall at 6.45pm. Dates for your diary: Thursday 27 July, an evening visit to Mr & Mrs Smith's garden at Astley and Saturday 19 August, the Annual Show. Details later.

Nellie Bradley

Martley Resource Centre

As many parishioners already know, the centre has moved from the pre-school site. It is now located in the library in the Memorial Hall, although it cannot be considered a permanent position. Prices remain the same – photocopies 3p (A4); Riso, for more than 40 copies, 2p (per A4) plus 40p

Summer fete

Martley C of E Primary School summer fete, Saturday June 18, 12 noon-3pm

There'll be a fantastic assortment of stalls including various tomobolas, white elephant, plants, lucky dips, hoopla, bouncy castle, inflatables, coconut shy, crazy sand, face-nail painting, penalty shootouts, spot the ball and much more.

There will also be a superb grand prize draw with tickets available from the school, centre stores and local pubs.

for master. Instructions have been placed on the wall near the machines. As the centre runs on trust, it is vital that users record the meter readings on the sheets supplied.

A L Boon

Bee news

Beehives all around the village are now humming with activity after shutting them-



selves up for the winter and as the blossoms and spring nectar really get going, so do the bees and the beekeepers. As a newcomer to Martley and with a bit more time on my hands I decided to take up beekeeping.

The first step was to join the Great Witley Beekeeping Association that covers the area around Great Witley, Abberley and Martley. This has been the best introduction to beekeeping I could imagine. The group meets regularly during the late spring and summer months, arranging the annual Bee Safari – a visit from the Bee Inspector – and a number of Apiary visits.

At these, under the expert tutelage of our Chairman Richard and others, we examine hives, learn about different aspects of beekeeping, share information and, most importantly, after looking at the bees, have an excellent tea! The members are a varied group – some have kept bees all their lives and some, like me, are novices – but all of

them welcoming and willing to share their experience and enthusiasm (and honey recipes). Our next events are Apiary Visits on Saturday, June 3 and 17, so if you'd like to join us or find out more about keeping your own bees contact our chairman, Richard Jackman, on 01886 821237, bee-man@theberrow.co.uk or our Secretary, Sophie Holroyd, on 01885 482480, sophieholroyd@onetel.com.

Knightswick and district Trefoil Guild

Our meeting was held at the home of Chris Fletcher, in Clifton-on-Teme, with 14 members and one visitor present.

The evening was devoted to Modern Guiding; Jacky Holloway enthusiastically told us about the youngest group, Rainbows, comprising five to seven year olds. We were shown several lovely books that they work from, the badges they work for, and how they learn to laugh, be helpful and caring.

Eileen Richmond described the new Brownie format that has been introduced, how they have a promise box for their private things, and an adventure book they have five essential points to concentrate on; the right to be individuals; to be heard; to be happy; to work together; and the right to learn. Both groups have fun, which is not surprising as both speakers enjoy being with the youngsters and activating them. Modern guiding is very much related to the world today, it encourages youngsters to think for

themselves and work for peace in the world. It was a most enjoyable evening and members were keen to support the groups whenever needed.

Five members were going to attend the County A.G.M. at Blackwell.

Geraldine Cooper.

Martley's Past

Parish Council Meeting, 20 April 1906
Min 7 – The Chairman (Col Currie) gave notice that he intended at the next regular meeting to ask the Council to represent to the County Council that some alteration might be made to the high road near Martley Court to obviate the dangers now caused by the very abrupt turns.

The next meeting, July 1906, was abandoned as there was no quorum of councillors present. The following meeting, 19 October 1906, contained only the following minute: On a motion of the Vice Chairman, seconded by R S Nash, it was unanimously resolved that the following resolution should be put in the Minute Book and sent to Miss Currie: "The members of Martley Parish Council desire to place on record how deeply they feel the loss they have suffered by the death of Col Currie, their late chairman. His courtesy and kindness to each member and the great personal interest and trouble he took in the Council and its affairs will be very keenly missed. He was the first chairman of the Council (December 1894) and has been unanimously reelected every year since. The members of the Council wish to

express their sincere sympathy with Miss Currie and the rest of the family in their bereavement.

Parish Council Meeting, 23 January 1908

Min 2 – Mr C J Holliday proposed and Mr W A Brown seconded that the chairman should be asked to approach Lord Dudley personally in reference to the corner at Martley Court rickyard.

Note. Work on this corner finally took place in the late 1970s!

ALB

Fire & Emergency Support Service volunteers needed.

The Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcs British Red Cross is launching a new fire and emergency service. The service will support the emergency services by responding to immediate needs of a family who have had to evacuate their home as the result of fire, flooding or similar disaster.

We are looking for volunteers to provide this rewarding service. Volunteers must be over 18 and should live within 30 mins of Worcester City Centre. Full training will be provided for free and expenses will be paid.

Can you give one or two days a month?

Contact Peter Gray on 01905 351212
Email: petergray@redcross.org.uk

Nearly new sale in the Teme Valley

A 'nearly new sale' is being organised through Teme Valley Children's Centre with the help of volunteers from all over the Teme Valley, working together to make the day a big hit.

You will be able to sell or purchase a range of toys, baby equipment or clothes for children 0-11 years old and also stay for refreshments. 'Coffee Haven', selling cappuccinos, lattes and speciality tea, will be open. Advertising has been delivered far and wide, starting in Clifton and going out as far as Tenbury, Bromyard and into Worcester.

We are excited at the prospect of being able to host an event on a large scale where people can sell their nearly new items or come and pick up a bargain, knowing all items will be good quality.

Generally, you find that the nearly new sales are done near the city, but this is a chance for the countryside to shine and to get a piece of the action. It will also benefit the children in the Teme Valley, as any profits will go towards the children in the area.

The event will be held on Saturday 17th June 2006 between 11am-1pm at Martley Village hall.

If you would like more information about the day or to become a seller, then please contact Rebecca or Amy at Teme Valley Children's Centre on 01886 812982.

Pensax Thrift Shop charity event

Pensax Thrift Shop's annual charity event is being held on Wednesday 12th July in aid of The County Air Ambulance. Any donations for the sale will be gratefully received during any Thrift Shop morning (Wednesdays, 9 - 11.15). Raffle tickets are now available at 30p each, £1.50 a book, with the prize being a flight in a hot air balloon.

Ladies in Business Thursday 22nd June starting at 7:00pm at The Hundred House Hotel, Great Witley. Come along for another relaxing evening, browsing among a variety of stands where you will find interesting one-off items for sale, as well as getting to know about the pampering opportunities that are offered by 'Ladies in Business' in the Great Witley/Herefordshire area. Free entry (bar available). Please contact Gina Hastings if you are interested in taking a stand at future events or if you require more details, on 7815 510804

Martley Parish Council

Meeting May 8, 2006 (abridged)

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

In Attendance: Mr. T. Pearsall (Clerk to The Parish Council),
10 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:

A question was asked if the Jury Lane/ St. Peters Drive numbering problems had been resolved, because emergency vehicles are still trying to access St. Peters via Jury Lane. The Chairman confirmed that the various responsible agencies had agreed to amend their records, but because some properties with addresses in Jury Lane actually seem to be in St. Peters Drive, then some confusion will continue; there is no simple solution.

Some residents in Heaton House are still receiving mail incorrectly; the Clerk to write to Elgar Housing.

Vandalism and petty crime is on the increase in Martley, with incidents of damage to the telephone kiosk, attacks on the caretaker at The Chantry, damage to the Memorial Hall and other incidents. Just before this meeting commenced, several youths were observed on the roof of the Memorial Hall; councillors apprehended them and names were taken, some damage was observed. The Chairman said that the Parish Council would take a strong line on this and establish whether Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) were appropriate.

The Parish Council Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8:35 pm.

249-06 Election of Chairman:
The retiring Chairman, Cllr. Mr. D.

Cropp stood down and The Clerk called for nominations. Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp was nominated and elected unopposed. Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor was elected Vice Chairman.

250-06 Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor, these were accepted.

251-06 Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests: The Clerk reminded everyone of the need to declare interests and to keep their list up to date. There were no declarations of interest.

252-06 Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd. April 2006: It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

Planning:

.Applications received:

1. .06/00492/FUL The Cottage Jury Lane; Demolish cottage and erect 1-3bed and 3-4 bed houses; Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp: objection

2. 06/00476/FUL B 4197 Hillside, Proposed access for Rodgehill Fm. & Treetops; Cllr. Mrs. D. Good-year: objection

3. 06/00514/FUL Jury Lodge, Jury Lane; Erection of double glazed conservatory & alterations; Cllr Mr. D. Cropp: agreed.

Applications approved/refused/withdrawn:

1. 05/01885/FUL T a r r a g o n Berrow Green Road Withdrawn

2. 06/00359/FUL T o m k i n s Fm. Hope House Rd. Proposed agri-

cultural building for storage of fodder, machinery and temporary housing for lambing; Prior approval not required.

Other items: Northern Area Development Committee agenda 5th. April 2006.

Special Planning Committee agenda 26th. April 2006.

259-06 Finance:

There were 8 cheques totalling £1669.46 for agreement and signature
Income April 06: £6350.0

Current Bank Balance Lloyds TSB 18 April 06 £2701.49

Actual position 18th. April 06
£6913.03

Deposit Acc
£7308.60.

260-06 Parish Paths Warden Report:

The was no report

261-06 Urgent Decisions since last meeting:

The Clerk declared that the invoice for the BT 'phone at the Library had been paid.

262-06 Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

The Clerk to ask Elgar Housing why a number of flats at Heaton House remain empty.

The Clerk to ask the Lengthman to trim overgrowth, junction of Horn Lane and Hillside and to enquire if he is able to spray the nettles by Longstones Cottage

The Clerk to enquire from WCC Highways when the crossing at the Chantry would be completed.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting at the Weighbridge.

Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 5th. June 2006 at 8 p.m. .

***Martley Parish Council
Chair's report, May 2006***

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on a somewhat mixed year in the life of Martley and its Parish Council.

As before, I wish to thank first our County Councillor Alwyn Davies for his support for Martley and to thank our District Councillor Mrs. Barbara Williams equally for her support. Their regular attendance and constructive approach in partnership with this Council is recognised and appreciated. Sadly this year past saw the loss of two of our most committed Parish Councillors who have served this village and its community well; Margaret Wickens as a past Chair of the Parish Council was passionate in her love of Martley, especially our Primary School; similarly Don Taylor, as an ex-Vice Chairman, was just as committed to supporting and strengthening the village in so many ways. We extend to both families our thanks and celebration for their work for the community of Martley.

I wish to thank all Councillors for their support, especially Graham Taylor as Vice-Chairman, and all for the specialist advice and commitment they are able to offer as Parish Council Repre-

sentatives on many of Martley organisations:-

Graham Taylor as Vice Chairman, and for Martley Old Grammar School Foundation, Sport Martley, and Martley Playing Fields; Dorrie Goodyear for Heaton House, Nora Parsons Day Centre and for Penny Hill Liaison; Michael Nott for Agriculture and the Rural Environment; Jack Slough for Business and Transport Issues; Mair Randall for Rural Issues; Neil Stammers for Neighbourhood Watch and Martley Village Memorial Hall; George Coombey-Jones for Planning Advice and the Built Environment; Richard McHugh for Business and Village Centre Issues.

I also owe a great deal of thanks to Tom Pearsall, our Clerk, in his role, and to congratulate him on being one of five short-listed nationally for Clerk of the Year.

It is also worth recognising the support from our Lengthsman, our Parish Paths Liaison Officer John Nicklin, Litter Warden Hazel Wilkins, and Environmental Officer Andrew Palmer.

All this shows that we are an active Council, and I am pleased to report that Martley was awarded ICT Worcestershire Village of the Year for 2005-2006.

I believe that Martley Parish Council continues to be a strong and professional body, working on behalf of the whole community, I am sure its success will continue in the coming year.

David L Cropp, May 6th, 2006

Martley Parish Council annual meeting

Meeting held Monday, May 8

I was delighted to be re-elected in May 2005. Therefore, I am able to give my 13th Annual Report to your Parish Meeting.

The County Council is run by a Conservative controlled administration and we have continued to pursue our policy of consensual decision making for the good of the County. For the past year, I have been Deputy Leader of the Council as well as Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Performance. I continue to sit on the boards of the Malvern Hills Science Park and the Central Technology Belt moving forward, I hope, economic development throughout the County. The new Council's theme for the future four years is "Building on Success" and we have recently launched our corporate plan, which has six major priorities for this term of the Council. Government still keeps a tight funding reign on our Shire Counties and our recent settlement was 2%.

We have an operational budget that spends £1.5 million per day and includes now a direct school budget of £315.9 million. Council Tax increases are almost inevitable to protect the current level of services. But we are committed to keep these increases as low as possible, using both built up reserves and efficiency savings.

In previous years, I have set out a

number of general issues which affect your Parish and indeed the Parishioners throughout Worcestershire and they basically remain the same.

1. Education receives in percentage terms acceptable funding but Worcestershire is still way below the national average, despite our efforts to negotiate improved funding levels. Local schools continue to raise their standards in both Primary, Middle and High school levels and local Governors work hard to ensure that all children benefit from the good facilities in our schools.

2. Transport remains a high profile, whether it be in basic road maintenance or traffic problems caused by the growth in car numbers and a tendency of its drivers to ignore conditions and road speed limits. Two studies are being undertaken both on land use and transportation to show the need for improved infrastructure.

3. Police. Whilst I am no longer on the Police Authority, I still take an interest in current events. The County Council support West Mercia Police in their bid to retain West Mercia in an improved format but I suspect that the Home Secretary has already made his mind up to create a force for the West Midlands. Some feel this is an example of Government intervention on many subjects without real consultation and recent so-called consultation on Primary Care Trusts, The Ambulance Service and the Strategic Health Authority are moving along similar paths. *Alwyn Davies County Cllr*



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS



Janet Andrews
01886 888303

Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Flower rota

4 June M Fisher
11 June Mrs Pargeter
18 June Mrs Britton-Long
25 June Mrs Barber

Ladies Fellowship

The outing for the Ladies Fellowship is on Tuesday 20 June to Hanbury Hall. Please meet at the Memorial Hall at 2pm.

How grandchildren see us

“My Grandmother is a good cook. Yorkshire pudding is my best grub when I go to stay.” Mark (age 9)
Grandpas always have a bag of sweets in their pockets as well as bits and bobs, such as a penknife, string, a compass, an animal bone and a toy soldier.

Thank You

Mrs Sarah Lewis would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, flowers and donations in memory of her husband, Ted. £85 was collected for Cancer Research.

In memoriam

Patrick Jinks

Derrick, Marian and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for the kind messages of condolence received, and also to thank all who attended Patrick's funeral.

Patrick was born in the Queen's Estate, Wichenford in 1954. His schooling commenced at the Wichenford Infants School followed by further education in Martley until 1970. Patrick started married life in Queensway, Wichenford, until family increases forced him to move to larger premises in Broadheath, where the remainder of his six children were born.

On leaving school, Patrick had several jobs before obtaining his HGV Class One driving licence, and from 1975 commenced driving for Edward Taylor at Martley until 1980. But it was in 1986 that Patrick found his niche in life when he joined the Co-Operative Funeral Service where he went on to gain his Diploma in Funeral Directing and Certificate for National Associa-

tion of Funeral Directors, before become Assistant Manager of the Co-Operative Funeral Service. Patrick found much satisfaction in being able to help and guide the bereaved at a sad time in their life, especially the old or the lonely. In recent months he had 'job satisfaction' when working at Worcester Royal Hospital, where he was working to help people.

Susan Gibbs

Sue passed away at her home in Hanbury surrounded by her husband Philip and daughters Charlotte and Katie. Before retirement to Hanbury, Sue and Philip farmed Colketts Farm for 48 years. They were both great assets to the community in many ways. Sue with Philip organised gymkhanas in aid of village organisations and helped with many other events including the Bluebell Ride. Sue rode with The Worcestershire Hunt from an early age, she loved horses and was on the committee of the pony club. When the Wyre Forest pony club was formed, Sue was on the original committee and served as secretary, treasurer and then became President. Her enthusiasm and love of children added much to the success of the club. Sue and Philip were jointly awarded "The Cubitt Award" from the Pony Club Association for their outstanding service.

Among her hobbies was gardening and she created a lovely garden at Colketts. She was a superb flower arranger, often helping friends with

wedding and celebration arrangements. She was a member of the WI and a super cook.

Sue and Philip suffered a sad blow in the loss of their eldest daughter, Sara, at an early age; she had been living and working in Australia. Sue's life was her family, she loved her animals and was skilled in her care of them. It was always a delight to visit Colketts, a warm welcome was assured and Sue's happy nature was a joy to all who knew her. She will be so sadly missed.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Philip, Charlotte and Mark, Katie and Paul and to her adored grandchildren, Peter and Sarah.

Maud Smith

We are sorry to hear that Maud has died aged 93. She was born Maud Fidoe at Cob House Farm, the youngest of 11 children. When she was a few days old she was carried across the fields to Hucks Farm where her family were to live. Today Hucks is still in the Fidoe family, Maud's nephew Keith now farms it.

When Maud married Fredrick Smith, they farmed at Haynes Green for many years, before moving to Coronation Cottage, a smallholding where they specialised in growing plants that were sold in Kidderminster. Maud loved her garden and had green fingers; she continued to grow her plants until she was well in her 80s. We send our deepest sympathy to her nieces and nephews in the loss of their aunt.

Colin Richardson

On 31 March 2006, Colin passed away in hospital with his family at his side. He had been ill for some time and over the past two years was unable to take part in the many sports he enjoyed.

Colin was born on New Year's Day 1928 and after leaving Grammar School, served his apprenticeship as an engineer. After working for various engineering companies, he decided in the late 1950s to start his own business. In June 1970, the family moved to Wichenford. Colin enjoyed walking the dog before going to work however early it was. He became a member of Wichenford Rifle Club and when he finally retired, joined Sapey Golf Club. He also enjoyed telling stories of the things that had happened in the past, to his daughters Lynda and Karen.

The family have a lot of happy memories of Colin and will miss him greatly.

Brenda, Lynda and Karen would like to say thank you for all the cards and messages that they have received, and would also like to thank Rev Jennifer Whittaker for all her help at this time.

Parochial Church Council Annual Meeting

At the AGM of Parishioners, the following Church members were elected for the coming year: Churchwarden, Mrs C Wetherall; Deanery Synod Representatives, Mr W Pearce and Mr D Stone; Secretary, Mrs C Wetherall

assisted by Mr T Cox and Mr W Pearce; Treasurer, Mr R Whyatt; Lay Chairman, Mrs P Webb. In addition, the following were elected to the PCC: Mrs J Andrews, Mrs E Britten, Mrs G Britten-Long, Mr T Cox, Mr S Pearce and Mrs S Richards.

Violet Wilby Memorial Music Award

Applications are invited for the Violet Wilby Memorial Music Award. Applicants must be at school or college, reside in the Parish of Wichenford and be studying music in one form or another.

Letters of application should be sent to Mrs C Wetherall, Abingdon Cottage, Wichenford WR6 6XY before the closing date of 10 July 2006.

Quality childcare

Ofsted registered childminder offers childcare for 0-8 year olds in a friendly and caring home environment.

Countryside setting, with craft activities, toddler groups, farm visits, trips to the park and country walks.

Able to provide emergency respite care and happy to take children in real nappies.

Call Brenda on 01886 888 052

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

The annual parish meeting was held on Tuesday April 18th 2006 in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford, and began at 8pm.

The meeting was opened by the vice chairman Cllr Randall, who welcomed everyone .

Matters Arising.

A progress report was given on Guises and Rosses Lane

Worcestershire County Council has recently been contacted and things are progressing at a speed to be anticipated. No date has been given for the final status report. The temporary closure notice is in place up to 16th August 2006.

Councillor Davies reported that one objection has been received, one non-specific for enquiries, and 5 in support. The final report is expected in 2/3 weeks.

The annual report was adopted with the Financial Statement. The Parish Council has £7,064.38 in the bank. The precept stays at £6,500

Cllr Randall explained that the parish council has managed to operate within its budget for the last 2/3 years and are very proud of that.

Reports were given by the following village societies:

Parochial church council— C. Wetherall.

During the year, there have been 4 baptisms, 4 funerals, and 1 wedding at

St Laurence's Church, easter and Christmas services were well supported and the Christingle service was particularly successful.

Repairs to the mortar and replacement of worn stones on the church tower were carried out at the end of the year by a specialist firm of stone masons. The work was finally completed in February 2006 and funded from the general church account and by the Friends of St Laurence fund. More repairs will be necessary in the future and a supply of stone has been set aside for this purpose. Further fund raising will be needed before this work can be undertaken. Otherwise, we strive to keep the church and churchyard in good working order and are grateful to those villagers who kindly help us with those delightful jobs like clearing gutters and removing birds nest debris from the bell chamber of the tower each year.

During the year, Mr George Webb kindly made and installed an iron hand rail by the lectern to help older members of the congregation ascend the step into the chancel.

We thank you all for your support during the last year.

Memorial Hall Cttee – D.Stinton

During 2005, Wichenford Memorial Hall Committee held two successful fundraising events. Refurbishment and maintenance of the building is ongoing and at the moment we are awaiting the results of an awards for all grant applications before starting to update the

public toilets areas. This will be followed by the decoration of the main hall, committee and cloakroom.

A decision was taken in March 2005 to keep no more than 200 gallons of heating oil, as it was felt that it could be vulnerable to theft.

Total income this year was £3,101 which was down on last year as we did not have the village fete donation, which is always very generous. The open gardens hired tables and chairs for which they gave a donation of £109.00; hall lettings, donations and fund raising events were the main earners. Grateful thanks must go to Hazel Nicholls and her team for providing such excellent whist drives. We most also thank our caretakers and booking clerks, Derrick and Marion Jinks, who do a super job. Our new cleaner Debbie Morris does an excellent job of cleaning and polishing our hall.

Neighbourhood watch – R. Panton

Mr Panton reported that we belong to the South Teme Area of Neighbourhood Watch.

The crimes reported and detected in Wichenford during 2005 are as follows;

* Burglary to dwellings 1 reported and 0 detected.

* Burglary to non-dwellings 4 reported and 0 detected.

* Vehicle crime 4 reported and 2 detected.

* Violent crime 2 reported and 2 detected.

* Other 10 reported and 1 detected.

Wichenford is a very low crime area compared to other districts.

Friends of St Laurence's church – B. Whyatt

The committee of the friends has been reformed during the year. Rev David Sherwin is the chairman and Gerald Barber the secretary.

So far we have only had to pay half the cost of the repairs to the outside of the church. This has been met by funds from the Friends and from the church current account.

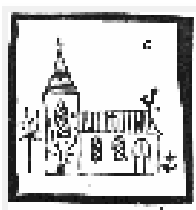
Millennium green – H Rendall

2005/2006 has seen a great deal of activity. Following a worryingly negative RoSPA report in March, we had to move the old climbing frame, much to the dismay of the children of the village, who immediately organised a petition for its reinstatement.

After a meeting, it was agreed that the planned toddler swing should be erected in its place and that funds should be sought to replace the climbing frame with one that would satisfy health and safety requirements

We welcomed Gary Murphy as our maintenance contractor and are grateful for all his efforts in maintaining the green over the year.

In the summer we saw the inauguration of the toddler swing with a crowd of children waiting to take their turns. Our thanks to the former WI, which started this particular ball rolling with a generous donation.



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Your favourite hymn/ Christian song

I wonder what yours is. Maybe it's a wedding or school hymn/song, maybe something else; they all mean something to us don't they? They all speak to us at different times in our lives.

If you were watching Songs of Praise at the end of April, you will remember that the BBC revealed their poll for the top 10 hymns/Christian songs for the past 12 months. Before they had decided to do this, we had already arranged our own Songs of Praise at St Leonard's Cotheridge for our group of churches, which intriguingly had a number of these hymns and songs in the choices.

We had also planned to hold our own "Top Ten Songs of Praise" on July 9th and to do this I need your help. Regardless of what the BBC's poll has revealed, I wish to find out what your top 10 is, namely in this benefice of Martley, Wichenford, Broadwas, Knightwick and Cotheridge. To this end, I am asking you to let me know via email, completion of the pro-forma below or telephone call what your choice would be. I will also be out and about asking people for their choices. We will then be able to reveal on Sun-

day July 9th those hymns and songs that you have chosen. This service will be held at St Mary Magdalene Broadwas and you will all, of course, be welcome to attend. Hope you can help

Healing service

Can I also bring this special service to your attention too on Sunday 11th June 6.30pm at St. Peter's Martley. Come for yourself or bring someone who might benefit from being there. If you want to know more about the service give me or Jennifer a call.

Men's Breakfast

Following the success of the first one in February, we will be holding a second on Saturday June 3rd at The Royal Oak Broadwas. Our guest speaker will be Canon Peter Davies, Honorary Lay Canon of Worcester Cathedral.

Peter took early retirement in 1998 from the financial markets of London and Madrid. He then undertook a Masters in Theology and became a Lay Reader. He moved to Worcester in 2001 and joined All Saints city centre parish, where he preaches and leads worship. He is chair of a project that intends to bring back the life of St Helens Church on the High Street and

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Church diary for June

- Saturday 3rd June 9-10.30am Benefice Prayer Group, St Laurence, Wichenford
8.30-10.00am Men's Breakfast at The Royal Oak, Broadwas
- Sunday 4th June 8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.00am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley
11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
6.30pm Youth Service, St Peter, Martley
- Monday 5th June 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
- Tuesday 6th June 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Thursday 8th June 2.00pm Little Minnows at St Peter, Martley (fruit)
- Sunday 11th June 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
6.30pm Healing Service, St Peter, Martley
- Monday 12th June 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at home of Jill Smith
- Wednesday 14th June 10.15 Holy Communion at Heaton House
- Sunday 18th June Father's Day
8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge
11.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
11.00am Morning Worship, St Peter, Martley
3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel
6.30pm Evening Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
- Monday 19th June 9.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter, Martley
- Tuesday 20th June 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Sunday 25th June 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 26th June 9.00am Morning Prayer at St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Tuesday 27th June 4.30pm Evening Prayer at St Johns Parish Church
- Wednesday 28th June 10.15 Songs of Praise at Heaton House
- Thursday 29th June 12.00 Mothers Union at the home of Muriel Coombe

Events in June

Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb - British, Leaders & Midland Hill Championship
Venue: Shelsley Walsh
Phone: 01886 812211
June 3-4

English Wine Week - Free vineyard tour & wine tastings from 12 noon
Venue: Tiltridge Vineyard, Upton Upon Severn
Phone: 01684 592906
June 4

Upton Jazz Festival - The annual Oliver Cromwell International Jazz Festival is held on the last weekend of June each year in Upton Upon Severn.

The festival has become the major UK traditional Jazz Festival attracting over 6,000 fans each year. The music is provided by a mix of professional and semi professional bands
Venue: Upton Upon Severn
E-Mail: info@uptonjazz.co.uk
June 23-25

For children - Pirate School
Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277
Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>
June 24

Giant toy & train fair -
Venue: Three Counties Showground
E-Mail: info@threecounties.co.uk
Phone: 01869 347489
June 25

Church words cont.

is Ethics tutor for Readers in training. He has three favourite sayings:

There's no such thing as a daft question!

Don't believe what you want to believe until you know what you ought to know. (Crow's Law, physicist)

I can embrace Christ, but not the church. Christ never went near a church. (Les Dawson)

*If you would like to come, let me know.**

** Rev David Sherwin*

Easter Lilies – Thank you

Many thanks to Catrine, Helen, Sharon, Jill, Jan and Margaret for their donations towards the costs of the lilies, in memory of loved ones displayed in church for Easter. Arum and Longiflorum lilies are expensive and their generosity enabled the church to look particularly beautiful at that time.

God Bless

*Reverend David Sherwin
The Rectory, Martley, Worcester WR6
6QA. Tel: 01886*

Village Contacts



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Martley WI	Gwynn Darby—01886 888490
Martley & Dist Hort. Soc.	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 <i>or</i> Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303, Sheila Richards— 01886 888378
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Counl.	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Secretary—Mike Holmes 01905 641739
Trefoil Guild	geraldine.cooper@btopenw orld.com