

The Villager

The community magazine for the
parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 16 No. 12

June 2007

Editor: Andrew Chilvers (01905 641986)

Editorial Team: *Martley:* Alan Boon (01886 888527), Nellie Bradley (01886 888339), Kate King (01886 888439), Beth Williams (01886 888273) *Wichenford:* Janet Andrews (01886 888303), Sheila Richards (01886 888378)

Advertising: Neil Stammers (01886 888513)

Distribution: *Martley* George & June Lawrence (01886 821064) *Wichenford* Bill & Jo Root (01886 888585)

Contact The Villager: leave articles at Martley Post Office, call Janet or Sheila (Wichenford) or email the Editor at editor@martley.org.uk

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

2nd 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

Weight Watchers

6.30 pm - 7.30 pm 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



Summer solstice

June is the sixth month of the year and takes its name from the Roman Goddess Juno, the goddess of marriage. So it's always been a good time to get hitched. *Sera Monath* or dry month is the name the Anglo Saxons used for June.

The summer solstice (21st June) is the actual day on which the sun climbs to its highest point in the sky. This was originally the day on which people celebrated midsummer. Every year, there's the famous summer solstice celebration at Stonehenge, the ancient

stone circle on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire. On the night before midsummer, a group of white-robed Druids gather at the stones 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.

Midsummer day

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 this 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. But don't try this at home!

Midsummer magic

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 the power of evil spirits and could help them foretell the future. Herbalists still use St John's Wort in their medicines today.

Midsummer superstitions

Roses are of special importance on Midsummer's eve. Tradition says that any rose picked on midsummer's eve will keep fresh until Christmas.

At Midnight on Midsummer's eve, young girl's should scatter rose petals before them and sing:

Rose leaves
Rose leave
Rose leaves I strew,
He that will love me,
come after me now.

On midsummer's day, their true love should then visit them.

There's also the traditional saying:
Married in the month of roses—June
Life will be one long honeymoon.
(*Scoff ye not, it worked for me, ed*)

Bread and cheese throwing

Whit Sunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter, is the day for a strange food-

throwing custom at St Braivels, Gloucestershire. After the evening service at the church, people gather near a wall by the castle, and bread and cheese are hurled into the crowd. Everyone scrambles to grab as many pieces of food as they can. The locals of St Braivels have been hurling bread and cheese since the 13th century, when the custom began, probably as a payment for the villagers' right to cut timber from a nearby wood.



Well dressing

Throughout June there are celebrations called well dressings, like the one pictured above in Malvern. Springs and fresh water wells have long been associated with magic. So some wells are traditionally honoured with decorations. These usually comprise moss, greenery and bright flowers.

Martley and District Horticultural Society

Guy Lloyd (from Wales) gave his talk 'A Personal View of Mexico' on 26 April. Guy had been to the country seven times in eight years on visits to his son's family who live there, and had done some exploring in the narrower southern end of this large country. It is 'third world' and in some parts pollution is quite bad. After a brief description he showed slides of towns, parks etc. and a pyramid with miles of internal tunnels was of particular interest. A lot of the slides, however, were scenes of everyday life – markets, fruit stalls, flower stalls; nurseries – colourful flowering shrubs; crops growing in the fields, mountain areas, lots of cyclamen, busy people and even shots of the volcano Popocatepetl erupting. Even a private rose garden just as one would see in England. Cheese being processed, corn on the cob; Good Friday and Easter traditions, shoeshine boys, senna pods and cacti. Such variety! Guy said he hopes to visit again and explore further in the north of the country. An absorbing talk, enjoyed by all.

Tina Steele

Visit to Highgrove House

After a wait of over two years the Horticultural Society was lucky enough to be invited to take a party of 25 members to visit the gardens of Highgrove House in Gloucestershire. HRH Prince of Wales bought High-

grove in 1980 and has created a garden of 17 acres from a neglected walled garden, overgrown copse and some rough pasture.

The garden now comprises a series of walks, vistas and smaller themed gardens, each with its own individual character and planting. We all admired the Walled Garden with its array of perfectly grown vegetables, fruit trees and soft fruit. The vegetable beds are all edged in box hedging planted in the shape of the crosses of St George and St Andrew. We also enjoyed the Woodland Garden, although "the Stumpery" was not to everyone's taste!

There was something to appeal to each one of us, a Cottage Garden, a Sundial Garden planted in black and white, an Azalea Walk and the fabulous Wild Flower Meadow and Tulip Walk, much photographed and featured frequently in magazines and books.

We had a wonderful time and our visit provided a unique opportunity for us to see the result of 25 years of hard work and inspirational gardening at Highgrove House.

Judith O'Leary

Quiz Night



Martley hosted a Quiz Night on 12 April. There were three teams, Inkberrow, Hartlebury and Martley.

Mike Dunnett was MC and some pretty difficult questions were asked

In the Garden



Late peas can be sown, Autocrat and Gladstone are two useful varieties. Sow parsley for a winter supply on a border facing west. When the plants are two or three inches high, cut down close to the ground – a sturdy growth will then spring up that will stand cold weather. Cut asparagus till the middle

of June, water with liquid manure. Keep any young winter greens well watered, watch for pests. Plant out celery in well-prepared trenches.

Sow anemone seeds in light soil, mix seeds with sand to ensure their even distribution. Sow perennials in well dug soil to which some sand has been mixed, choose a partly shaded border. Take cuttings from pinks. Greenhouse – prick out seedling primulas, begonias, streptocarpus etc. Sow seeds of cineraria. Keep amaryllis growing well. Top-dress lilliums in pots.

Tina Steele

on an extensive range of horticultural subjects. Knowledge was tested on illustrations, and twigs were passed round for identification. Result – Hartlebury first, Martley second and Inkberrow third. Refreshments were served and the evening was well supported. As other groups were also using the Hall, parking became a problem – this was an occasion when the Sports Field was needed for extra space, but the gate was locked.

Martley Spurs

There was no fixture for the league leading Saturday side on 7 April. The Sunday Premier League team did not have a fixture either, but the Reserves had a good win over Droitwich Spa Reserves beating them by five goals to nil. The 14th saw the Saturday eleven win again with three goals into Upton

Town's net, a pair of these kicked in by Luke Willetts. This meant the Spurs could no longer be beaten in the chase for the Premier title, which they took for the first time ever.

The 15th saw the Sunday Premier lads lose 1-0 to Droitwich Spa, while the Reserves were badly beaten by Callow End.

Saturday the 21st's game for the Saturday eleven was the semi-final of the Martley Cup, which the Spurs easily won 4-0 over The Talbot. Richard Taylor's hat trick put them once again in the final. The Sunday Premier side overcame Colwall St James 4-0 the next morning.





Diary of a Superdad

People often ask me, what is the secret to being a Superdad or as one wag recently quipped, my superdadism.

Of course, I reply with all the modesty I can muster that I'm not so different from most dads. Just that bit more super, I suppose.

And it's not just about high times and holidays, a superdad is also there to give the family its stolid protection and guidance—and to heal the factional divides that break out amid violence and bitterness.

Take the recent strife during the Battle of Dora the Explorer. Now Dora is a cutesy little hispanic cartoon character who likes to go on adventures with her rucksack accompanied by furry friends who help her to solve puzzles. Little reason for her to be responsible for a morning of internecine strife, you would think. But you'd be wrong. It happened early on Sunday morning as I was still dozing in bed. Wifey was already up doing various domestic chores that simply couldn't be put off anymore and as there was only one slave in this family she'd better get up and do them.

I feigned a deep torpor and muttered something about making bacon and eggs after she'd finished with the ironing and Hoovering.

It was a blissful calm before the storm, Dora climbing a volcanic mountain in search of some secret, while wifey relived her youth downstairs by humming "The heat is on", currently playing on the radio. My bed was truly a sanctuary.

Then it happened. Little Dora was suddenly replaced by a loud American brat yelling 'dude I'm gonna frazzle yer'. A crash accompanied the said brat and the youngest came screaming into my silent sanctuary howling "he turned Dora over and told me he would throw my Thunderbird 2 in the bin if I told you!!!"

The oldest then ran in behind shouting, "he's making it up, he's making it up. Dora finished and I turned the TV over to American alien storm troopers (or some such programme)." The youngest then clocked the oldest, who then tapped the youngest on the arm with some aquatic looking fellow with webbed hands.

Clearly there had to be some urgent need for mediation before things got completely out of hand. Above all, wifey would hear the rumpus and my blissful moment of peace would be over for another week.

I motioned shush to both boys and downstairs we heard wifey singing along to the Human League: 'Keep feeling fascination' came rolling tunelessly out of the kitchen. We were ok for the moment.

I sat up in bed and held them both at arms length while they continued to try to assault each other with Dr Who,

Buzz Lightyear and Fireman Sam.

"Stop, both of you. Just stop!!" I shouted in a most unsuperdad type of way. This was getting difficult.

"What can we do to make up and be friends?" I quizzed the warring factions. They both looked up coyly at me: "We could pick up the papers at the shops, maybe buy a sweetie and then have a game of football," smirked the oldest.

"That's a good idea and we'd be friends then," replied the youngest.

I realised the inevitability of my predicament and sighed "ok". It was only 7.45am, but needs must.

Within a few minutes I'd showered away the sleeplessness and ambled downstairs ready for a day of sweetie buying and football playing amid the odd eruption of disaffection. But it's all in day's work for a superdad. So

be it, I mused. Nevertheless, I did feel a pang of unease as I lurked in the doorway of the kitchen. I could hear the boys and wifey laughing. All arguments forgotten. In fact, wifey was laughing some much she was crying.

The youngest chortled: "Like you told us mummy, we pretended to be angry with each other and daddy woke up and told us he would take us to the shops and then play football."

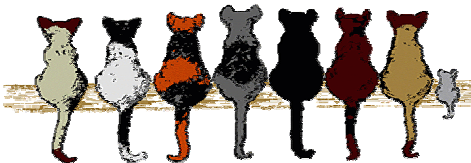
The oldest added: "Do you think he'll be angry when he finds out?"

Choking back tears, wifey coughed: "No, of course not. But remember, this will be our little secret." As I walked in, everyone glanced knowingly at each other, while wifey ironed furiously singing along to "Time of my life", from Dirty Dancing. It really was time to get out of the house.

Over the final weekend of the month the Saturday team beat Powick 4-2, but the Reserves lost 1-0 to Prinner Sports.

Beth Williams

Update on the ASBO Cat



He is no longer mistaken for a rat having developed into a sleek but gangly adolescent who eats like a voracious

teenage – the other feline inhabitant has to be fed separately otherwise he just guzzles her food too. There is no fat on him, his madcap racing around means he burns up calories at the speed of sound.

He has given up climbing the rubber plant and has graduated to a damson tree. The sofa is becoming more and more tacky looking every day and the scratching post remains unused. He still enjoys chasing cotton reels that I have to retrieve from under the television, yet he prefers chasing mice, voles and birds (oh, horror!), which he is unable to kill because his teeth are not yet fully grown. He brings these

'play' things in as still very alive donations, and I have to chase them, pick them up and return them to the wild – no easy feat. My best present was four, still warm, pheasant tail feathers. Let me know if you see a tailless pheasant around. He is quite an intelligent little thing, he seems to know when I am going out and stretches himself out on the sofa as if to say, "OK. I know I'm confined to this living room, and the garden is off limits." Flies and other flying beings are regularly targeted, meaning more plants and objects crashing to the floor.

He has now had his bits removed so, at least, I do not have to worry about him going a-wooning; he still cuddles up and sleeps on my lap, but categorically refuses to make friends with his older feline co-inhabitant.

Unfortunately, he cannot do any of these tricks for a while. Over the bank holiday he had a close encounter with a motor vehicle. This led to an emergency visit to the vet, an operation to put two pins in his left hind leg, a big credit bill, him living in a large cage for a while and being totally house-bound for six weeks.

Beth Williams

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 10 June 2pm and Wednesday 20 June 7pm

Apologies for yet another small change to the programme. Due to the pressure of moving house and her forthcoming wedding, Pam Southall will not be leading as planned this

month. David Wilkes has stepped in and will lead, probably in the S u c k l e y / Alfrick area.

Meet at church car park 2pm

for instructions re: starting place.

This month we have a "two for the price of one" offer. On Wednesday evening 7pm 20 June, we have our midsummer evening walk. Alex Walker will lead around some local features. No, not local pubs, but they could come afterwards – Alex always has a wide knowledge of what to look for, where and why, so keep fingers crossed for a warm dry evening.

Kate King

Martley WI

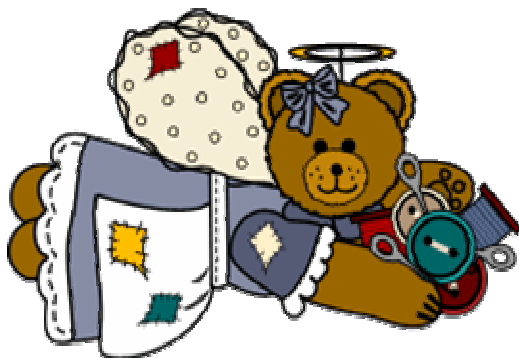
13 June 7pm Stoneybridge House

Our garden meeting will be at Stoneybridge House by kind invitation of Joy and Reg Snow, starting at 7pm to make the most of the summer evening. Food, fun, frolics and friends will all be on the agenda. The competition will be for the best rose. We shall have a new auctioneer trying his talents this year, so do donate items with tongue-twisting names. Plus, of course, cash to buy them back (proceeds to WI funds). Bring a garden chair, friends, family and whoever wants to join us.

The sewing group have been toiling long and mightily over the 76 tabards for the Primary School and Cathedral



Pre-School Snippets



The last half term has seen the children focusing on 'people who help us'. From those who help us in the home to those who keep us safe, the children were exploring the roles that others play in their lives. We set up a mini-hospital in Pre-School and also made fireman ladders, amongst many other activities.

Thank you to all who volunteered on Gardening Day. As a Pre-School, we are very lucky to have such a beautiful outdoor space. We couldn't keep it looking so great without your help!

We would like to welcome James

Spencer, India Smith and Isabelle Steven to Pre-School. Also joining us, as a Pre-School assistant, is Lisa Marie Lewis. We are sure she will be a wonderful addition to the team.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Kerenza Stokes who leaves us to take up a new post at the primary school.

Kerenza was with us for five years, starting as a parent volunteer and ending as Assistant Manager. Kerenza has been an asset to the Pre-School and will be missed, but we wish her all the best in her new position. Well done, Kerenza and thank you!

We are still looking for a cleaner for 3 hours a week and an After-School Club supervisor for 5-6 hours a week. If you are interested please contact Kath at Pre-School.

Congratulations Corner: A belated Happy Birthday to Jemma Corbett and Isabelle Steven who both turned four in May. More birthday wishes go to Mia John who turns four this month.

Sue Gibbins

service in July.

Well done to them for all the time and effort they have put into the project. They are looking forward to seeing the finished tabards used in procession at the cathedral.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

The bleating of the new-born lambs has faded for another year and everywhere seems so quiet, apart from the usual sounds of chainsaws and strimmers. Grandchildren stayed recently, their main objective to help feed the

lambs and assist farmers Alan and Fiona Jefferies. Many thanks to them for their patience. The children were keen for us to ask if they (rephrase that to “us”) could buy number 24, a particular favourite. We declined, as we feared their mum would not be pleased if we delivered back two children and a large lamb. They do already have 4 dogs and a cat.

Due to the prolonged dry spell, gardens are not flourishing as well as usual. As the lane is mainly south facing and sheltered, suggestions have been made that perhaps residents could form a Pudford Co-operative, planting vineyards with the object of eventually producing Pudford Plonk. Watch this space.

Kate King

Thank You

Jacqui Wenman and the family would like to thank all those who attended Peter’s memorial service in Martley, and for the many tributes, cards, letters and messages of sympathy they re-

ceived. They have been overwhelmed and know that Peter would be so proud, as they were, to be remembered like this.

National Carers’ Week

11-17 June 2007

Do you care for someone at home?

Worcestershire Association of Carers presents a chance to try out lots of hobbies and courses. Come and have a go!

Respite and local transport can be provided.

Tue 12 June, Visit to Hanbury Hall

Wed 13 June, Time Out Taster Days. Fairfield Centre, Brickfields, Worcester

Thu 14 June, The Council House, Bromsgrove

Phone 01905 26500 for more information.

Martley’s Past

November, 1863. Mr W Barnes, headmaster, wrote recording several items that showed how different school life was then:

Nov 4th “Several boys asked permission to leave school at 4 o’clock on account of the dark evenings and long distance – others to dig their gardens for wheat sowing or exposure to frosts.

Nov 5th Holiday for Master to attend the Reunion at Saltley.

Nov 11th A boy detected stealing another’s dinner – punished. Gave a Geography lesson to 3 Class I boys who are to compete for a premium of £10

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

Tragic tale of Sir Hugh Mortimer

Have you ever wondered about the story of Sir Hugh Mortimer in St Peter's Church Martley? It's without doubt, the most important monument in the village and was created at a time then England was riven by civil war and social upheaval.

Next time you're in the church look over the south side of the chancel and you'll see the carved effigy of Sir Hugh, Lord of Martley and Kyre Wyard who was killed at the Battle of Wakefield on December 30, 1460.

Sir Hugh is wearing a complete piece of armour, which by 1450 had replaced chain mail as an essential item of protection in battle.

Also note on the side of the tomb are carved angels holding Coats of Arms of families associated with Sir Hugh.

Look closely and you'll see his nose has been flattened and his hands cut off along with the top of his left foot. This would have been done by Cromwellian soldiers during the civil war of the 17th century.

On the wall immediately above his head is a drawing of a lady in prayer, believed to be Dame Eleanor, Sir Hugh's wife.

The Mortimer's were the most powerful family in the county and Sir Hugh had inherited Martley manor at the tender age of just seven. He loved the parish and later in life he was responsible for the building of St Peter's



tower in 1450.

After he was killed fighting for the Yorkist cause, Sir Hugh was thought to have been brought back to Martley to be buried in the church.

Over the centuries in nearby Martley Court, several owners have experienced a sudden fall in temperature followed by the sound of a body being dragged along the ground. The explanation has always been that this is the mortally wounded Sir Hugh Mortimer dragging himself back from Wakefield to Martley to see his beloved Eleanor one last time.

Interestingly, if you look closely at the effigy, you'll see that the stone has a neat square carved out of its side, which is believed to be done by Cromwellian soldiers who used it for sword sharpening. In that next conflict St Peter's was used to stable the horses of the Parliamentary army.

towards apprenticeship.

Nov 13th. Absentees picking up fruit – wheat sowing and cutting tops off turnips.

Nov 16th. Absentees pulling up turnips, sowing wheat and cider making (!).

Nov 23rd. Several boys went to view foxhounds after dinner and many did not return to school. Cautioned against repetition of the same.

Nov 24th. Purchased some cards with Multiplication Tables for second class.

Nov 25th. Two boys stayed at home while shoes were mended.

Nov 30th. Few boys at morning prayers – dark morning.”

Oh, for the Good Old Days!

A L Boon

Martley Primary School

At the end of this term we will be very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Pam Mullins, our Deputy Headteacher, who is retiring.

Numerous former pupils will remember her with affection and respect, a wonderful teacher who got the best out of her pupils with a firm but fair hand and a twinkle in her eye. She will be greatly missed and we owe her a big debt of gratitude and we wish her a long and very happy and healthy retirement.

We are composing a leaving book that will contain special memories of her time here and would appreciate any photographs or messages from past pupils, which could be included. Please take them to the school office

so we can make a photocopy for the book.

We would like to thank you for your help.

Mrs H Davies, Headteacher

Teme Valley Views

From the Teme Valley Children's Centre

Finding ways to supplement your family income can be difficult when you're the main carer for your children. More and more parents are recognising the opportunities provided by local enterprise initiatives.

By signing up to act as local traders for cards, toys, nappies or books, they can work from home and bring in a bit of extra money.

Since starting the Coffee Haven, the Children's Centre has become aware that families need a place in which they can regularly sell their products. In the past year, Phoenix cards, Usborne books and Aloe Vera products have been welcomed to the Coffee Haven at Clifton-upon-Teme to talk about and sell their wares.

Building on this favourable experience, the Children's Centre has decided to support local enterprise by setting up a 'marketplace', once a month, at Martley Memorial Hall. Each month, to coincide with our regular stay-and-play session, 2-3 sellers are invited to set up a stall to promote their products to visiting parents. Refreshments are provided by Coffee Haven Lite on these occasions.

We are also keen to hear from anyone who would like to visit the Coffee Haven locations at Clifton-upon-Teme or Hanley Village Hall with their products. If you would like to get involved, please contact Sam Billingham on the number below.

For more information about the work of the Children's Centre please contact us at 01886 812982 or visit our website at www.temevalley-cc.org.uk

Church fete

On a day that alternated between sunshine and showers, Martley residents came out in force for the annual Church fete at the rectory. The occasion also saw the welcome return to the community of Reverend David Sherwin after a long illness.

Dressed up in a very blue clown's garb, David spent the time laughing and joking with parishioners and blowing up doggy shaped balloons for the children.

Elsewhere, children and adults enjoyed various games, including a lucky dip, coconut shy, bat the rat and crazy golf. Pet lovers also lined up with their favourite dogs, while beer and bubbly were auctioned off in the annual raffle.

Meanwhile, a band sculptured out of metal played silently in the corner.

Ice cream was on hand for when the sun decided to break through the clouds and tea and cakes were on sale in the rectory for when the rain decided to break through the sun.

AC



Out and about in June

Elgar 150th Birthday Celebrations -

Venue: Various: Malvern &
Worcester

Phone: 01684 892289

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/y2k5vp>

Priory Organ Recital - Elgar's 150th

Birthday Celebrations: Dr Roy
Massey MBE

Venue: Great Malvern Priory

E-Mail:

Phone: 01684 892289

Website: <http://>

www.malvernprioryorgan.org.uk

Piano Recital by Daniel Tong

Venue: Elgar Birthplace Museum,
Lower Broadheath

E-Mail: birthplace@elgarmuseum.org

Phone: 01905 333224

Website: <http://>

www.elgarmuseum.org

Edwardian Garden Party - Sir

Edward Elgar says "I invite you to
come and celebrate my 50th birthday
on Saturday afternoon 2nd June from
12.30 in Malvern's Priory Park."

Venue: Priory Park, Malvern

Phone: 01684 892289

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/2u9ez3>

Upton Rowing Club Regatta - Pubs,

Clubs and Firms Regatta. Racing
starts 11am and finishes opposite the
Kings Head.

Venue: River Severn at Upton

Phone: 01905 757585

Website: <http://www.uptonrc.org.uk>

Elgar in the Park

concert by the Lybrook Band

Venue: Priory Park

Phone: 01684 892289

Witley Court Event -

Behind the Scenes Tours - 5th & 7th

Venue: Witley Court

Phone: 01299 896636

Website: <http://tinyurl.co.uk/q7b2>

Malvern Walking Festival - 4 days

of walks in the Malvern area.

Venue: The Malverns

Phone: 01684 892289

Website: <http://www.malvern-hills.info>

David Suchet in The Last Confession

Venue: Malvern Theatres

Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

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

Phone: 01684 593254

Website: <http://www.uptonjazz.co.uk>



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS



Janet Andrews
01886 888303

Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Altar Flowers

2 June M. Fisher
10 June Ladies Fellowship
17 June Mrs Britten Long
24 June Mrs C Jones

We have a vacancy on the flower list. Would anyone like to decorate a window in church for festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest? If you feel you'd like to help, please ring Barbara Wysall on 01886-888298.

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship meeting 19 June.
Venue yet to be decided.

Open Gardens

Open Gardens Weekend is on 23/24 June 11am-6pm in aid of St Richard's Hospice and the Village. More gardens open this year. Excellent lunches and teas as usual, stalls in Guises Lane and private gardens and the Church will be open. Tickets and plans of route will be available from the car park. Adults £4, children free.

Nora Parson's day centre

The AGM of the Nora Parsons' Day

Centre will take place on Wednesday 4 July at 7pm in the Centre.

Do come and hear all about the activities, outings and fund raising events held during the year and a chance to meet the committee and give your views.

Refreshments are served after the business, so please come along.

Lord Ednam Air Rifle League

Congratulations to the Wichenford team who have won the Lord Ednam Air Rifle League this year. It was a nail-biting tournament as the final result depended on Wichenford winning or drawing the very last match to take the trophy. In the end they managed to be three ahead of their opposing team.

Any village could take part, but they



must be within a 10 mile radius of Witley.

Today there are 12 teams in the League and this is the first time Wichenford have won. The trophy will be presented at the Annual Dinner on 8 June at the Hundred House.

Team members are: Dave Cole, John Dew, Joe Wainwright, Jim Stokes, Ade Bullock (Captain), Ron Poulton, Andy Johnson, Chris Wickens (Secretary), Mat Dyson, Steve Madocks, Julian Knott, Dave Southall and Jim Wheeler.



Bluebell ride

The Wichenford Lanes had never been so full of traffic and horseboxes on Sunday

morning, the 22nd April, as they made their way to a large field by the Church for the Bluebell Cross country ride. There were horses trotting down the road from neighbouring stables, and others arriving in style in enormous boxes.

It was a perfect spring morning, sunny and hot, and the bluebells were at their very bluest best. In the woods they were a carpet of flowers, interspersed with white wild garlic and pink campion, yellow primroses and dead-nettles and little violets. The smell wafted up as you walked through.

There were nearly 200 riders and horses of all shapes and sizes, colours and breeds with characters to match. They all looked excited and expectant to get going.

Non-jumpers jumped the jumps – but a few were stumped at the water splash and had to turn back.

I had to admire one particular person on a tricky ex-race horse who refused to cross the stream—various people tried to ride her across, and eventually one and a half hours later she gave up the struggle and hopped over like a lamb! A terrific show of patience from the jockey!

Everyone was delighted to be able to ride on farm tracks, through green fields, and woods and not have to negotiate narrow lanes and risk meeting traffic. And the woods and fields were at their perfect spring best.

Over £2,500 was raised, which will be split between Wichenford Church, the Millennium Green, the Village Hall, the Wichenford Day Centre, St. Richards Hospice and Acorns Children's Hospice.

I would like to thank our helpers:, the Randall family at the 'desk', checking in and out all the riders from start to finish. Also Matthew and Skinny, who built all the jumps over the few weeks prior to the ride and monitored the course on the day on their quad bikes, along with Denis, who even went back over the course with a rider afterwards to find her mobile phone dropped somewhere along the 10-mile route!

Ken, who conducted the parking of the

horse boxes so expertly and without incident; Caroline, Sara, Julie and Toni, who manned the road crossings, and especially Stephanie who did all the administration weeks in advance with such enthusiasm and got the Bluebell Ride up and running again..

I would also like to thank John of the Equestrian and Country Leisure Shop at Top Barn for sponsoring the Rosettes, and the Malvern Saddle Company for their generous donation. Doing something like this is very much a team effort, and I am grateful to all of the above for their help. It was really worth it, and no doubt we will have to do it again come bluebell time next year!

Georgina Britten Long.

Litter – It needs to Stop – Now!!

I have been finding that the lanes around and through the village of Wichenford are becoming quite littered and I have been very concerned about the number of vodka bottles in the verges.

My mum and I have been litter picking a few times and have returned with several bin bags full. This litter is doing no favours to our village, so please do your bit to stop the litter, eg. if you can, go litter picking like I have or just by not dropping litter.

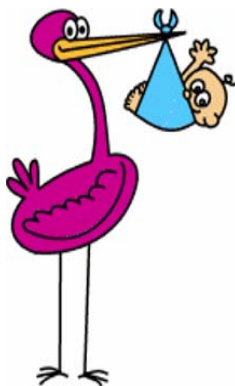
All this will help to make Wichenford a nicer place to live in.

Lydia Corbett

NB: Litter is ugly – even wearing lipstick!

Birth announcement

Margaret & Ray Rushgrove are happy to announce the birth of their second grandson, Ross. Born on 6 March weighing 9lb 8oz. Son of Juliet and Eddie, a brother for Mia.



Wichenford 100 Club

Winner April 2007 No. 101 Maggie Baldwin £100



Mobile Library

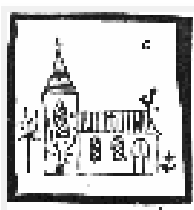
The mobile library visits Wichenford on the first Wednesday of every month. We do not want to lose it, so please use it.

Wichenford, Malvern View
10am-10.30am

Wichenford Church
10.35am-11am

Wichenford, Kings Green Farm
11.05am-11.35am

Wichenford, Rosses Green
11.40am-12.10pm



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 833897

Hello again everybody, yes it's me, I'm back. Thank you all so much for your love and prayers during my sabbatical that was overshadowed by health problems. Even though a procedure to correct my problems did not work, I am back and working as normal.

I also want to thank Jennifer, our assistant Priest, along with Rob and others for their support and ministry within the parish during my absence.

It is what Christian ministry is all about, working together, and being a team for God. That team as you may know is growing in July, as we welcome our new Curate Bruce Thomson and his wife Margaret into the Benefice. Bruce has a lot of experience in Christian ministry and will be living in Wichenford.

This growth within the team will enable us to continue to serve and develop Christian ministry within the benefice and surrounding area. It is good when we see things develop in a positive way, unlike my sabbatical. However, when I pondered this time I was very aware of God being at work in my life even as things did not quite work out as planned.

Each of us must, at times, wonder what is happening in our lives, and if we have an active faith, may wonder what God is doing. Yet the outcome is

in His hands and we have to trust him within it and for the future. Even though the hoped-for outcomes within my sabbatical, for health and the projects I had set myself, were not reached, I know that God was with me all the way, and still is! Prayers that were said were not unanswered, for I am back at work and with you once again. The prayers may have asked for specific outcomes, but God in his wisdom answered in another way. Never give up in praying, and wrestling in prayer, as one man called Epaphras in the Bible is said to have done. The Psalms are full of prayers that speak of the questions we all have. Yet the psalmist never gave up on God. God was there, even when the prayer wondered what was happening. 'Pray without ceasing' we are told, and I know many do. Thank you all for your prayers for me.

Rev David Sherwin

St. Peter's Spring Fayre

Thanks to everyone who helped with the fayre on Sat. 12th May. Even though the weather threatened rain, the odd shower did not stop the enthusiastic from bringing their pets to the Pet show and those who came to enjoy the games from doing so. People commented to me that it was a great event to socialise and have fun together. I'm told we raised about £900. Thank You. We will be back next year.

Church Diary for June

Saturday 2nd June 9-10.30am Benefice Prayer Group, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

Sunday 3rd 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

Monday 4th June 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford

7.30pm Warden's Meeting at The Rectory

Tuesday 5th June 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

8th/9th/10th June Deanery Music week-end

Sunday 10th 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 Deanery Evening Prayer at St. Edburga's, Leigh

Monday 11th June 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at Half Key

Wednesday 13th June 10.00am, Holy Communion, Heaton House

Thursday 14th June 2.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter, Martley

Sunday 17th 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

11.00am Morning Service + Baptism, St. Laurence, Wichenford

3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel

Monday 18th June 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley

23rd/24th June Wichenford Open Gardens

Sunday 24th 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 25th June 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

Wednesday 27th June 10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House

Saturday 30th June Go West walk, Clifton to Eastham

7.30pm Volante Strings at St. Peter, Martley



Volunteering in the countryside

- Fancy getting out and helping your local countryside?
- Want to meet new people?
- Need to keep fit?
- Would you like to learn new skills?

- Just not sure what to expect or where to go?

Then why not come along to one of our free, informal, 1-hour fact finding sessions at Worcester Woods Country Park?

This no strings session will give you the chance to find out the sort of volunteering opportunities that are on offer in the local countryside and what you can expect if you do decide to volunteer.

Whether you are 16 or 116, whether you can spare a couple of hours a week or a day or two a month, volunteering is a rewarding experience. So come along to Worcester Woods Country Park at either 10am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, or 7pm on Wednesday June 13, to find out more.

For more information please call 01905 766493.

Date for your diary—Martley Primary school fete

This year's Martley Primary school fete will be trying to raise money for a climbing frame (pictured right).

Please come along and give us all your support on Saturday, June 16 between 12-3pm.

There will be lots of family fun activities and any donations of bottles, preserves, cakes etc will be gratefully received.

Please bring to Martley C of E Primary School and if you require any



further information please contact the school, 01886 888210.

Thanks.

Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Andrew Chilvers editor@martley.org.uk <i>or</i> 01905 641986 <i>or</i> leave articles at the Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Neil Stammers neil.stammers@btinternet.c om <i>or</i> 01886 888513
Church	Rector: Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 Curate: Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org.uk
Martley Parish Council	Chair: Dave Cropp—01886 888398; Clerk: Tom Pearsall—01886 888256
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