

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 13 No. 1

June 2003

Editor: Michelle Higgins (01886 888344)
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: Nigel Collett (01886 888086)
Distribution: *Martley* George & June Lawrence (01886 821064) *Wichenford* Bill & Jo Root (01886 888585)

Contact The Villager: leave articles at Martley Post Office or 1 Oxford View Wichenford or email the Editor at msh_47@yahoo.co.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

Diary

Regular events:

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing

Weds 7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

Weight Watchers 6.30-7.30pm Tuesdays

Martley Memorial Hall. *Enquiries:* Jennie

Barnes 01886 888712

Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

Evening Telephone Service

Tuesdays 4.30-8pm 01584 810860

Short mat Bowling Tuesdays 2.30pm Martley Memorial Hall

For Church services, please see Church News

- Mon 2 **Martley Parish Council Meeting**
8pm Memorial Hall
- Sun 8 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers to Croft Ambrey. Meet 11am Church car park
Martley & District Horticultural Society to Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens, leave Martley Village Hall at 1.15pm
Open Garden at 1 Prickley Bungalows, Hockhams Lane 2-6pm in aid of the National Gardens Scheme
- Wed 11 **Martley WI: Garden Meeting** 7pm at the home of Joy and Reg Snow
- Tue 17 **Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship** 2.30pm at Keepers Cottage, Ockeridge
- Wed 18 **Citizens Advice Bureau:** 12-1pm Great Witley Surgery and 1.30-2.30pm Knightwick Surgery - by appointment. Tel. 01584 810860
- Thu 19 **Meeting of The Wine Club** Summer garden meeting
- Sat 21 **Chantry High School 40th Anniversary Ball**
- Sun 22 **Martley Church Tower Open Afternoon**
- Thu 26 **Martley & District Horticultural Society:** to "The Bannut" meeting at Martley Village Hall at 6.45pm
- Sat 28 **Martley CE Primary School Summer Fayre** 2pm
- Sun 29 **Open Garden**—details as 8 June

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

Martley Parish Council APM

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 7 April 2003 in the Memorial Hall at 8.15 p.m. (For full report apply to Parish Clerk.)

Chairman's Report - Mr B Draper MBE

The Chairman welcomed the 12 parishioners to the meeting. During the past year Richard Britton resigned on a matter of principle and Karen Seabright resigned because she is moving away from the parish, and he thanked them both for their contributions to the Parish Council. Mr Draper welcomed Neil Stammers to the Parish Council and he has already undertaken to organise the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Parish Council held 12 meetings during the year, commented on 38 Planning Applications and made several site visits. The Parish enjoyed a very successful celebration of the Golden Jubilee and he thanked all who contributed and helped make it such a success. Mr Tom Pearsall was appointed Parish Lengthman in February and is an excellent choice. Mr Draper thanked, on behalf of the Parish Council, all those who have helped or contributed to the parish in many ways. He especially thanked the Parish Litter Warden, Mrs Hazel Wilkins; Alan Gosling for keeping the Weighbridge grass cut and Mr John Nicklin and his Path Or Nones for keeping the footpaths clear. He expressed the appreciation of the parish to Mr Alwyn Davies, County Councillor, and Mrs B Williams, District Councillor, for all their help and advice during the year. He thanked Mr David Cropp for his help and support as Vice Chairman and his fellow Councillors and Cecil Vyvyan-Robinson, the Parish Clerk, who is retiring after seven years.

County Councillor's Report - Mr A Davies

Mr Davies has represented Martley Parish in the Hallow division of the county for 10 years and now serves on the Cabinet of the County Council. This year the County Council budget totals £437,823,000 split between education, social services, environmental, corporate and financial. These services will cost a band D household £822.00 per year, equating to £15.81p a week, plus £119.80 a year, equating to £2.30 per week, for the Police; and the District Council and Parish Council Precepts. Mr Davies believed that the County Council rates represented good value for money. He regularly attended the Martley Parish Council meetings and is happy to offer help and advice.

District Councillor's Report - Mrs B Williams

The Housing Needs Survey for affordable housing in Martley was completed. This proved that there is considerable local need: the possibilities are being considered. Since control of the Council changed three years ago a promise was made that MHDC Council Tax would rise no more than inflation. The rates this year would have risen by 2.5% but despite 1.5% National Insurance increases the rise will be only 4%. Due to reorganisation Martley Ward is now made up of Martley, Wichenford and Kenswick. Mrs Williams was much looking forward to being the Martley District Councillor for the next four years.

Memorial Hall Management Trust Report - Mr D Cropp

The village Memorial Hall has been regularly used by village organisations and societies and for other functions. The Management Committee have met regularly and Mr

Cropp thanked all concerned for their commitment. The Hall has continued to be upgraded and refurbished, notably with the completion of the car park drainage, which was supported by ENTRUST, and a Lottery award to upgrade the stage lighting. Martley Parish Council, acting in partnership, has taken the lead with Community First, Vital Villages and Worcester Library Service, for the installation of a library and Cyber Café in the Committee room and storeroom area. Despite increasing costs, the Management Committee will ensure that the Memorial Hall continues to flourish and meet parishioners' requirements.

Martley Primary School Report - Mrs M Wickens Mrs Wickens, who represents Wichenford and Martley Parish Councils on the Management Board, said there were 132 pupils, six member of staff, three support assistants and two assistants for Special Needs children. They makes an excellent team. Pupils are encouraged to play their part in the community and have close connections with St Peter's Church. It is an efficient and happy school and Mrs Wickens renewed her invitation for parishioners to visit the school and see it for themselves.

Martley Recreation Association Report - Mr G Taylor The Playing Field has been well-used by the Cricket and Football Clubs and the children's Play Area remained popular. Costs are giving concern, especially the Insurance premium on the field and pavilion, which is set to rise dramatically in 2003. Both Clubs were considering plans for additional fundraising and the Parish Council had been approached for possible assistance. The Secretary to the Association, Pat Owen, had resigned and thanks were expressed for her efforts and assistance

and they are looking for a replacement.

Penny Hill Liaison Committee Report - Mrs D Goodyear During the year four Liaison Meetings were held. Work has been carried out to reduce noise from the gas booster fans to an acceptable level by installing a noise screen. Six new wells have been installed to capture gas and reduce smell and following drilling works, gas yields have improved. As a result of work carried out on the site there have been no reported cases of any odours and lorry movements continue to be low. No leachate left the site.

Martley Millennium Green Trust Report - supplied by Mr R Britton This year marked the end of funding by the Countryside Agency for all Millennium Greens. The financial support was invaluable and with this and other contributions, including a sum for ongoing maintenance from the Parish Council, we now have a worthwhile bank balance. During the year a Management Team was set up for the meadow. Their objective is to put forward a Management Plan to meet objectives and regular maintenance. The growth of newly planted trees will be monitored to ensure that in 20 years time the lovely views of the Church from Hope House Lane are not impeded. Mr Britton thanked the band of volunteers who have assisted in manifold tasks, especially Lionel Minchin who has established the mown paths. The Chairman referred to letters from Mrs Tina Steele and others expressing great concern that the recently-planted native trees would, on maturity, spoil the view of the Church from Hopehouse Lane. This was discussed at length and in conclusion the Chairman, who is also a Trustee of the Martley Millennium Green Trust, agreed that, however well-intentioned, a mistake had

been made. At the appropriate time of year these trees would therefore be moved.

Sports Martley Committee Report - Mr G Taylor

It has been another good year for the Sports Hall and the new Site Manager, Stacey Robinson, has brought a lot of new ideas with him. New products for the year were Soft Play Parties, Sports Parties, Junior Football, Junior Aerobics and Play Schemes for School Breaks over 5 Years. The Sports Hall usage is very high with few vacant slots left and the climbing wall remains very popular.

Parish Footpaths Report - supplied by Mr J Nicklin

The Parish Council has again joined the Parish Paths Partnership, but like all organisations the Insurance premium has increased and has now risen to a third of the budget. During the year several large fallen trees were removed, six or seven kilometres of paths were cleared, six new finger posts installed, five new way mark posts erected and four stiles replaced. Approximately 4,500 metres of way marking was re-done and two bridges were repaired. Mr Nicklin wished to thank all owners for their co-operation in all aspects of the footpaths scheme. The Martley Group now has its own web site, www.thepathornones.co.uk.

Neighbourhood Watch Report - Mr N Stammers

Considerable initial progress has been made in rejuvenating the Neighbourhood Watch in Martley but it is an uphill battle to recruit enough Co-Ordinators. Mr Stammers thanked the existing Co-Ordinators for their support and efforts will continue. It was a useful meeting of Co-Ordinators at Abberley on 20 March but although the Parish Council had

offered to meet the petrol cost none of the three drivers were prepared to submit their mileage and this was much appreciated. The Chairman thanked Mr Stammers for his efforts and confirmed the full support of the Parish Council for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Parish Charities Report

1. The Martley Old Grammar School Foundation: Grants totalling £8,240.00 were awarded to 28 students. In addition grants were made to the Chantry High School, the Martley C of E Primary School and Martley District pre-School, totalling £7,250.00. Local students that the charity has supported in further education are achieving good results to a high standard.
2. The Thomas Shepherd Trust. Gave £35.00 to the Chantry School during the year.
3. Relief in Need Charity funds stand at £2,300.00 but no grants were made.
4. The Slade Nash Trust has a current balance of £18,342.00 and during the past year made a donation of £2,732.00 to Martley C of E Primary School for computer licences.

Finance Report - Parish Clerk Martley Parish Council has, over the last few years, provided some £4,000.00 to celebrate the Millennium and the Golden Jubilee. All involved appeared to have enjoyed and appreciated the occasions. These were of course very unique events in the history of the parish. Rising costs have necessitated an increase in Precept for the coming year from £6,000.00 to £7,000.00 but even so this will only cost the average householder in the parish the price of a pint of beer a month.

Affordable Housing - Mr A Saunders Mr

(Continued on page 23)

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

www.martley.org.uk

Martley WI

11 June, Garden meeting at Stoneybridge House 7pm

Once again we have been invited by Joy and Reg Snow to join them at their lovely home for the garden meeting. The fun starts at 7pm, so don't be late. Bring along items both usual, unwanted and/or unusual for the fun auction. Bring cash as well as this is our main fund raising event of the year. No four-poster beds or large items, please, as transport could be difficult. Although, presumably, Taylors of Martley might oblige for a small fee. Bring friends and relatives as well.

Many thanks to Margaret Lloyd-James for arranging the enjoyable visits to Hampton Court gardens and to the Swan to see and hear The Pirates of Penzance. Where are we going next?

Kate King

Martley Ramblers

8 June 11am Church car park

Well, we have done it again – got lost. This time it was the whole Rambling Group who were lost in the Wyre Forest. The walk turned into 7.5 miles instead of 5 but we all eventually returned safely to base. One member was last seen at a roundabout on the Bewdley by pass but there have not been any enquiries from the police re her whereabouts.

This month bring a picnic lunch and be ready to leave the church car park at 11am for Croft Ambrey and Croft Castle. Pam Southall will be leading around this old

Hillfort and we are hoping for good weather to take advantage of the views and perhaps hear some larks ascending. The summer barbecue will be at the Crown Martley in July, date to be confirmed. Please book your place with the secretary, present and former members are all welcome. There could be a penalty for late booking.

Kate King

Martley CE Primary School

The School Summer Fayre will be held on 28th June from 2pm.

Sharon Baker

Martley Cricket Club

The New Season

After one of the warmest and driest springs in modern memory the cricket season started for Martley....on a cold, dull day at Stone. The Sunday friendly game ended in defeat but it was very pleasing to see two of the Club's younger players starring: James Ganderton taking 5 wickets and John Greaves hitting a half-century. We hope this is the shape of things to come. Several youngsters experienced playing in 'grown up' cricket (whatever that is!) and we look forward to more of the Juniors coming in both League and Friendly games.

Fixture Secretary Andy Pethybridge has worked to produce another fine list of games. Although we have no choice over who we play in the League, Andy has

managed to get a good Friendly list out this year, and the fixtures will be listed each month in the Villager.

The Worcestershire County League programme has yet to get under-way, but there'll be a lot of travelling for the Martley players in the Third Division of the County League, and hopes are high for a much better season in 2003.

The Tour

Two games have been arranged for the Tour in 2003—this year based in the New Forest. It's hoped a third fixture can be organised. The 'party of fine athletes' leave on Monday 30 June, returning on Friday 4 July.

Nets

Outdoor nets will have started by the time you read this, and anyone interested should come along to the Jewry Field on Friday evenings.

The Big Game

Elsewhere in the Villager there should be details of the David Leatherdale Benefit Match. At the time of writing we don't know who'll be in the 'County' team but I'm sure a lot of the stars of Worcestershire will be turning out (remember the day Glen McGrath played FOR Martley?)

There does seem to be some confusion over what it costs to come along and see the game, well it costs *NOTHING*. It's free to get in, and also free parking on the day, but if you are coming please don't park on the Village Hall Car Park on that day, the gate at the top of the field will be open for parking.

Come along and enjoy the day, bring your folding chairs and picnic blankets, it's another great sporting day for Martley , and we want everyone to come along and have a good time.

Tea and cakes will be on sale, there'll be

lunch for our sponsors and guests, with a barbecue after the game, and the bar will be open all afternoon.

Our Cricket Correspondent

Fixtures for June:

Sun 1	Ombersley	Friendly	A
Sat 7	1 st XI v. Birlingham	WCL	A
	2 nd XI v. Birlingham	WCL	H
Sun 8	Kinver	Friendly	A
Sat 14	1 st XI v. Rushwick	WCL	H
	2 nd XI v. Rushwick	WCL	A
Sun 15	Old Georgian	Friendly	H
Sat 21	1 st XI v. Dominees and Guild	WCL	A
	2 nd XI v. Dominees and Guild	WCL	H
Sat 28	1 st XI v. Alveley	WCL	A
	2 nd XI v. Alveley	WCL	H
Sun 29	Old Vigornians	Friendly	A

Sun 22 June The Mike Ganderton Memorial Match *For David Leatherdale's Benefit* Martley CC v. A Worcestershire XI *Sponsored by Taylors of Martley.*

The Royal British Legion

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them”

These well-known words are spoken at the

beginning of our meetings. At this time there is sadness as we see our servicemen killed and injured in Iraq. Our thoughts and prayers are with all serving in Iraq and their families.

The April meeting was well-attended. Social Secretary, Thelma Taber, has arranged a skittles evening at the Admiral Rodney on Weds. 4 June at 7pm, skittles and supper £6.50 per head. Members will be sent details. Even if you do not wish to play, come and enjoy the company and supper!

As people move away etc, Mike Peters, Poppy Appeal Organiser, needs more collectors for Cotheridge and Knightwick. Can you help? The Gulf war means extra pressure on The Royal British Legion to support those needing assistance. Please ring Mike on 01886-821504 for details. Thank you, in anticipation. The next meeting is on 2 June at the Talbot Hotel, Knightwick.

Joyce Tyler, Hon. Secretary.

Pudford Place

The on-going story of Lane folk continues
Welcome back to Simon Jeffries after his half Gap Year in Canada. Welcome to more new inhabitants of the lane, including the Guinea Fowl who prefer the freedom and dangers of the lane to the safety of their pen. The lambs are growing and so are the potholes.

The yellow lines painted by the Highways Authority are fading fast, along with the apple blossom. Tom Lengthman is doing a wonderful job but even he can't get them filled in. Please, Parish Council, we know you are tired of hearing about potholes, but please can you try again?

The condition of the surface of the Lane could have upset skateboarding activities,

but we understand the broken wrist of one of the boarders arose from falling off a swing. Another request: does anyone know of a musician willing to act as the Pied Piper of Pudford? Rats are breeding fast. Maybe Mr H Potter and Hedwig of Hogwarts should be contacted.

Kate King

Martley & District Horticultural Society

We welcomed Mr Alan Craske to our April meeting. For many years Alan has been involved in restoring the maze at the 10 acre walled garden at Castle Bromwich Hall near Birmingham. The garden had been neglected for many, many years and the holly trees that formed the only holly maze in the country had grown. This meant they had to be chopped down nearly to the ground to start new growth that could be trained to form hedges. This took many years, but the maze has now returned to its former glory and is a great attraction.

On Thursday 26 June there will be an evening visit to the garden at "The Bannut" meeting at Martley Village Hall at 6.45pm. The twenty-seventh Annual Show this year is on Saturday 16 August at 2pm. More details in the next issue of The Villager.

Nellie Bradley

Martley Weight Watchers

Nobody is a failure at the Martley Weight Watchers class as long as they learn from experience. Each week we have a 30-minute discussion focusing on members achieving their goals. We learn from one another.

If a member has a particular challenge you

can bet that someone else has faced it and has words of advice to give. The result is a successful, positive meeting which sets the scene for the member to concentrate on what they want and how to achieve it. The result is a great weight loss in Martley. One popular member of our class is Mr. Will Power. Will Power is non-fee paying and attends every week and goes home with the person who needs him most. Most people who take home Will Power come back the next week smiling!!! All are welcome to join us, male and female, at 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Martley Memorial Hall.

Jennie Barnes

Martley Spurs

What with holidays, injuries and away jobs many of our best players have been off the Martley pitch this month. This of course has meant us losing games we should have won and even having some postponed and then finding ourselves not standing out in the league tables. The first weekend saw a postponed game and a 4-1 win for the Reserves when Adam Baldwin netted all four. The following weekend ended with two lost games even with plenty of balls smashed into the nets. The 19th saw our boys lose the semi-final of the Martley Cup and the last weekend of April brought no extra points. The league positions at the end of the month offered no satisfaction with all three sides lying in the lower half of the tables.

Beth Williams

Martley Show And Fete

The annual Show and Fete will be held in its usual venue on Saturday August 16th. All the usual stalls, boot sale, rides and

things together with the giant tombola will be there and the Appalachian dancers will be present to entertain us. So please make a note in your diary today!!! and don't forget the photo competition.

Classic Car Rally For Local Scanner Appeal

Since losing my brother Andrew to cancer in July 2000 my sister-in-law Barbara has raised £50,000 for Cancer Research. However, this year her fund raising efforts will be directed elsewhere. Dr Bywater, from the Knightwick surgery expressed a wish for a portable ultra-sound scanner to be shared in partnership with the Great Witley surgery. This scanner can detect, among other conditions, pregnancy, arterial problems, deep vein thrombosis, testicular, ovarian, uterine, kidney and liver problems. Very few surgeries in the country have one, there are none in Hereford or Worcestershire, even though some of the vets have them!! The scanner will cost in the region of £15,000, no central funding is available, so Barbara has offered her fund raising skills to help finance it.

Among her programme of events is to take part in a classic car rally from London to Pamploma in Spain driving Andrew's old Rover. Barbara together with Wizz Clift from the Talbot in Knightwick will be one, if not the only lady team entering and should, therefore, get a bit of media publicity but will, of course, need more sponsorship.

Sponsorship forms will be circulated locally and anyone willing to help her raise enough for the scanner can pick one up or get in touch with Barbara directly on 018886 888120. All cheques should be made out to the registered charity: "The

Martley Equipment Fund". Even the smallest donation will be gratefully received.

Beth Williams

Martley Millennium Green

Spring on the Green continues apace and the growth is beginning to get going after the end of the dry period in April.

A programme of spraying was carried out during April to start to control the nettles which infest a large part of the area. Pockets have been left around the margin of the field to encourage butterflies. Following this, a control programme will start on the creeping thistles.

The trees planted in the late Winter, proposed to general acceptance at the annual general meeting held in January, will frame the vistas across the Green and soften the straight edges formed by the boundary. It is our intention to manage this planting by coppicing, so restricting the eventual height of the trees, particularly on the Southern boundary. This will ensure that views of the Church from Hope House Lane will not be obstructed. The resulting mixed flora of meadow and wood margin will prove of great benefit to wildlife diversity.

*Ian Pennell, Mike Dunnett,
Millennium Green management
committee*



Church notices

Sunday 29 June: Ordination of our Curate Jennifer Whittaker at Worcester Cathedral 10.30am followed by a Benefice Lunch and get together with Jennifer and her family and friends at Chantry High School at 1.30pm finishing with a service at St. Peter's Martley at 4.00pm.

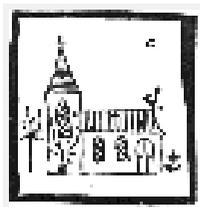
The Benefice group of churches has been given 50 tickets to join Jennifer and others for their ordination. If you would like the opportunity of attending please let David know.

If you would like to join us for refreshments it would also be helpful if you could let us know.

Anyone is of course welcome to join us for the service at 4.00pm at St. Peter's Martley.

Jennifer will then not be around until 30 August as she has to finish her training at a summer school, but we eagerly await her joining us when she has finished. Further information from Revd. David Sherwin, 01886 888664

Our thanks go to Brian Lea who has been organist at St. Peter's Martley for about 18 years and also led the Ferdale singers during that time. He retired from this position at Easter when we were able to present him with a gift as a token of our appreciation. We wish Brian, Judith and Jenny all the best, as they begin new chapters in their lives. God Bless you, with all our love from everyone at St. Peter's, the Village of Martley and the Ferndale singers.



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Last month saw the release of the blockbuster movie, X Men 2, based on the comic book superhero's about a group of mutants with superhuman powers. We know only too well people are fascinated by the prospect of being, superhuman and possessing powers to wield at will. The problem is, as the movie explores, how would we use them? For good or ill?

We are approaching the festival of Pentecost (Whit Sunday), which is a Jewish festival of the first fruits of harvest. It was during this festival that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and the early church was born. The coming of the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples from fearful men and women in hiding and lacking confidence into a group of people who changed the world.

How could this be so? The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples with gifts they used to demonstrate God's power at work in the world through them. The Acts of the Apostles tells us they healed the sick, performed miracles, spoke in tongues (languages they had never learned) prophesied, were filled with knowledge and wisdom, challenged evil, exhibited great faith, even raising the dead we are told! It seems they behaved a little like 'superhero's'. However unlike our comic book hero's these men and women were real and they used gifts they had been given for good. They pointed away from themselves to the giver of the power, God. The Holy Spirit is still alive and well and empowering people to do God's will, even

you and I. All we have to do is be open to him and he will come and transform our lives. God Bless.

Rev David Sherwin

1 June	Ascension 1
Wichenford	9.30am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Family Service
Broadwas	11am Matins
Knightwick	8am Holy Communion
8 June	Pentecost
Wichenford	10.0am All Age Service
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
15 June	Trinity Sunday
Wichenford	6.30pm Evensong
Martley	11am Morning Worship
Broadwas	11am Holy Communion
Knightwick	3pm Evening Worship
22 June	
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
Broadwas	8am Holy Communion; 11am All-Age Worship
29 June	
Worcester Cathedral	10.30am Ordination of Curate
Martley	4pm Service



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Flower Rota

1 June Miss M Fisher
8 June Mrs M Pargeter
15 June Mrs G Britten-Long
22 June Mrs Barber
29 June No Service



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

**Phone your Wichenford
news to Janet or Sheila or leave articles at
Martley Post Office or 1 Oxford View
Wichenford**

Evensong

15 June at 6.30pm, Trinity Sunday.
We hope to open the church over the Open
Gardens weekend, 5 & 6 July, but need
some offers of assistants to sit in the
church and welcome visitors, preferably in
pairs. Would you please let one of the
churchwardens know if you can help.
Thank you.

One-Sentence Sermons

Pray is a four-letter word that you can say
anywhere.
Wisdom has two parts, (1) having a lot to
say, (2) not saying it.
Wichenford Parochial Church Council
Annual General Meeting
At the meeting the Rector thanked
everybody who had helped in any way
with the care and preservation of the
church, its contents and the churchyard,
and especially those who, month by
month, help to keep the services going.
Sharing responsibility is a great act of

faith and greatly valued by all concerned.
Churchwardens re-elected were Mrs Pam
Webb and Mrs Carma Wetherall.

Wichenford Ladies Fellowship

In April we met at the home of Mrs
Brenda Hadfield. Members were
welcomed and Mrs Molly Wall led the
prayers, and on this occasion we turned
our thoughts to the war in Iraq and its
aftermath. Business followed and final
arrangements were made for the
Fellowship outing to the Bodenham
Arboretum at Wolverley in May, when we
hope to see the laburnum in bloom. Mrs
Isabel Field suggested the Fellowship
organise a Partner Whist Drive at
Wichenford in the autumn for church
funds. This met with general approval.
Ideas were then discussed for a guest
speaker at our October meeting, to
complete our programme for 2003. Next,
we travelled to Gibraltar, via video, and

enjoyed a tour and commentary of this historic place that Britain has been involved with for centuries. Could our next outing be to Gibraltar?! We rounded off an enjoyable meeting with a delicious tea provided by Mrs Hadfield, and we thank her for her hospitality. The next meeting will be held on 17 June at 2.30pm at Keepers Cottage, Ockeridge.

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Malcolm Perkins, who won the cup for the best pen of lambs at the Easter Show and Sale at Worcester Market. Malcolm was also awarded the Richard Evans Memorial Plaque for the overall championship in the whole of the lamb section.

Wedding News

Congratulations to Richard Palmer and Angela Charles who were married on 26 April. We wish them every happiness in their future life.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Les and Jean Wall who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Friday 18 April 2003. The evening was spent with their family at the Chateau Impney, Droitwich. We wish Les and Jean many more happy years together.

Wichenford Wine Club

Wichenford Wine Club will meet on Thursday 19 June. This is our summer garden meeting and will take place at the home of Mervyn and Margaret Mitchard who will also choose the wines for tasting during the evening. Here's hoping for good

weather to match last year's summer meeting! This will be a 7pm. start to take advantage of the light.

There are still a few places available for the July visit to Halfpenny Green Vineyard - come along to the June meeting and book for July's trip.

Mike O'Leary

Memorial Hall Whist Drives

A splendid series of Whist Drives was held during the winter months. Not only do they raise money for the Memorial Hall, but are also a most enjoyable social event. We are very grateful to Hazel Nicholls who organises the Whist Drives, our thanks also go to Marion Jinks and Elsie Whitehead who manage the refreshments, to John Richards who acts as MC and to Derek Jinks who prepares the hall for the evening.

Wichenford Open Gardens Weekend 5-6 July

Make a note in your diary for the weekend of 5 and 6 July. Light lunches will be available and teas will be served. There will be several stalls selling plants, produce, books etc.

We should be grateful for gifts of cakes for the teas, produce and any small saleable item, or if you can spare an hour or two to help. Please ring 01886-888431 or 01886-888158.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Darren and Pauline Powell who have come to live in the village. We hope that they will be very happy in Wichenford.

Sponsored swim

Dale-Jaim`e Matthews is again doing her third sponsored swim to raise money for the Nora Parsons Day Centre in Wichenford. Dale is hoping to swim one mile (plus) at Lower Wick swimming pool in the summer holidays. Dale hopes that people will sponsor her so that the elderly and disabled will enjoy their days at the Nora Parson Day Centre. Thank you

Dale-Jaim`e Matthews

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Nora Parsons Day Centre's Easter raffle. We raised £95.70.

Wichenford Local Heritage Group

Dendrochronology – Nigel Nayling was unable to come back to Wichenford during the week beginning 24 March. We are trying to arrange a new date for later in May.

Parish bounds – Having been encouraged by our walk at the southern end of the parish, we went on a second walk at the northern boundary. A group met at Woodhouse Farm on Sunday morning, 6 April and John Day took us east to the boundary where we turned north following the boundary until it met the Sinton Green / Ockeridge road. After lunch the boundary was followed west across the Ockeridge crossroads. We were again impressed with the abundance of pollard oaks, of ancient small-leaved limes and of wild service trees.

Field walk – We are still waiting for a date for the geophysics survey.

Meetings – On 2 April Elizabeth Howard

from the Record Office talked about researching house history. A large group turned out and enjoyed a very interesting evening. We have finalised arrangements for the visit planned for Saturday 31 May. We are now going to visit the ancient monument site at Avebury and already more than 35 people have signed up to go. The trip is subsidised and will only cost £5. There are a few seats left so if anyone else is interested, they should contact me on 519 or Mary Hylan on 431.

Mervyn Mitchard

Wichenford Millennium Green

Tidying & Inspection: June: Bill Hylan.

Wichenford 100 Club: April winning no. 111. Congratulations to Mike Baldwin.

Vicki Roberts

Wedding Congratulations: Walker & Townsend

Laura and Mark are getting married at St. Peters Church, Martley, on Saturday 21st June at 2pm. Friends and neighbours are all welcome at the Church service.

Irene Walker

Walking/Cycling Group

I am thinking of getting together a small group of 3-8 people (couple of car loads max.) who are interested in challenging but fun walks/rides perhaps on a fortnightly basis but NOT weekends. These would probably involve a Pub! I have no set ideas other than exercise, fresh air and a map. Interested? Give me a ring on 01886 888777.

Vicki Roberts

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 14 April 2003 in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford with 12 people present. The Annual report was adopted with the Financial Statement. The Parish Council has £3,110.79 in the bank and an excess of income over expenditure of £540.00. The Precept has been increased to £6,000.00 to pay for the forthcoming elections. Because of a lack of candidates there will be no election. Apologies were received from M Mitchard, P Andrews, M Andrews, J Root, and Rev Sherwin.

Reports were given by the following village societies:

WICHENFORD WI – J.Root. Over the past year members enjoyed a programme of excellent talks and demonstrations. We have been to the theatre, a pantomime and had a Christmas meal. In spite of efforts to increase members, our numbers had fallen to nine, with speaker's fees and subscriptions rising it became necessary to suspend our WI for three years, after which time it will be officially closed. Members voted to use our remaining funds to provide something for the village, so a toddler swing has been bought for the Millennium Green.

MARTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL – B. Wickens. The school has 132 pupils on roll. Numbers will increase from the new housing developments at Kinloss and Kenswick. The 15 governors and 1 clerk meet at least twice a term plus meetings of Sub Committees. The staff consists of: six Teaching staff, two Teaching Assistants for special needs, three Teaching assistants for classrooms, School Administrator, Dinner Ladies and Cleaners. We have supported Comic Relief. Raised £141.92

for Blue Peter's Bring and Buy and £391.68 for Barnardos. The school maintains its strong links with the church. The school has excellent facilities for disabled children, with ramps in place and classroom doors being widened. The P.T. F.A give help and support, and most of the money raised this year will go to the Grounds Development Project, as will money from the Old Grammar School Foundation. The school is working hard for Green Flag Status for their ECO Area.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL – P. Webb. The church is enjoying a lot of support and enthusiasm from the Rev. Sherwin resulting in greater attendance at the All Age Service and Special Services. The New Common Worship forms of Holy Communion have been introduced. Several groups of young people meet in Martley to study the Alpha Course, and learn to play musical instruments. Here in Wichenford numbers of regular members of the congregation have fallen. In order to appeal to more people this summer we shall be having Sunday Evensong once a month from May to September.

In September the church will be open over the weekend of 12/13 September for a heritage weekend, when visitors will be able to see the restored Washbourne Tombs. The local Heritage Group will put on a display in the Memorial Hall. Our new Curate Mrs Jennifer Whittaker will soon be joining the benefice. In autumn 2004 we will comply with part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act and fit a Public Address and Loop System into the church.

MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE – D. Stinton Three fundraising events were

organised and raised £839.00. Hall lettings and hire were down, but we received an increased amount from the whist Drives totalling £486.00, thanks to Hazel Nicholls. A very generous donation of £1050 was received from the fete committee, £500 from the parish council and £69 from the Harvest Supper. The double-glazing in the hall and porch is complete, costing £4546. A new electric cooker costing £180 was purchased, and repairs have been done costing £354.

WICHENFORD CHARITIES – M.Fisher. The Wichenford Charities was registered with the Charity Commission on 17 April 1923. They were originally administered and managed to benefit the poor and needy of the parish. Income generated in 2002 amounted to £178.65 and no benefits were paid. As stated in the constitution of the charity, recipients of the income have to be in need of such things as perhaps a bag of coal, or a pair of boots to receive benefit. The trustees are very much aware that this does not seem to be in keeping with modern day needs so decided to approach another charity in Wichenford, whose constitution relates to modern day needs and can distribute benefits to all villagers depending on circumstances.

The Wichenford Nursing Association known as The Britten Charity was approached and the trustees of both charities agreed that amalgamation of both charities would benefit the villagers.

FRIENDS OF ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH – B.Whyatt. Donations came from people who don't attend church. According to the quinquennial review any repairs should be met out of church funds. Blocks need replacing costing £50,000, so we need to persuade those who don't attend church to contribute to Friends of St Laurence.

NORA PARSONS DAY CENTRE MGT CTTEE - D.Stinton. The management committee meets twice a year and is responsible for the fabric of the building. No major expenditure has been incurred and the only problem reported was mould and damp in the passage. This was found to be caused by condensation through lack of ventilation.

WICHENFORD FETE COMMITTEE – J. Andrews. The fete raised a record sum of £3,000. The money was distributed as follows: - Wichenford Church £1,050, Wichenford Memorial Hall £1,050, Millennium Green £300, Wichenford Nursing Association £150, Martley Pre School £150, Worc Society for Deaf Children £100, Villager Magazine £50, Day Centre £50, Ladies Fellowship £50. The sum of £25 was sent to Allsorts Dog Training Group, as they did not charge for attending the fete.

Some money was retained for expenses towards the next fete. Some members of the committee took unsold items to the Martley Car boot sale and raised a further £130.

WICHENFORD NURSING ASSOCIATION – G. Britten-Long. The Hon Mrs Britten set up the Wichenford Nursing Association in 1940, to assist the work of the district nurse during the war. The association is still run by the Britten family, with Pam Webb and Janet Andrews. We are trying to link up with the Wichenford Charities.

About 30/40 Christmas gifts have been distributed to people in the parish this year, who have been unwell, undergone major operations or suffered personal loss. We have a reclining chair which has been in much use this year and a Tens machine at the Knightwick surgery. There is currently £3,000 in the bank.

FOOTPATH OFFICER – J. Richards

The footpaths in the parish have been well used, and no complaints regarding obstruction or vandalism have been received. Walking the footpaths can be a great pleasure but don't forget the downside is it also gives access to the minority whose intentions are not entirely honourable.

VILLAGER REPORT – S.Richards

It has been another successful year for The Villager magazine. There is still a waiting list for people wishing to advertise. The adverts not only provide a good source of income to offset printing costs, but also is a valuable asset for people moving into the area. We are grateful for any news contributions, whether news items, family events, gardening tips, or recipes. Much of the news is sent to the editor by email.

MILLENNIUM GREEN – G.Britten-Long
A new climbing frame has been purchased and the insurance is in place. Several parishioners have pledged trees. The large oak tree that blew down in the storms had to be urgently dealt with, as it was a danger. There is now a rota for cleaning the green, which is published in The Villager. The committee has been disbanded down to 4/5 trustees.

WICHENFORD HERITAGE COMMITTEE – M. Hylan
The Heritage group enjoys a great deal of support from the community and County Archaeological Service. We are now aware of the evidence for a Roman settlement at Cockshoot. We are hoping to carry out a geophysical survey of the site in August/September. A number of heritage experts have given lectures to the group in the village hall. The group has received a grant from the County Council under the Discovering Worcestershire scheme, to enable work to go ahead with

the County Botanist, who has reviewed the evidence from Saxon Charter bounds and has identified features still evident along the parish boundary, which were used by King Offa to define a grant of land given to Bishop Mildred in 757. The series of ten evening classes were a great success. We are hoping to arrange more classes for next autumn. A site visit to the ancient site of Avebury is planned for the 31 May. The group has contributed to the County tithe map project. We are planning to make a full size copy of the Parish tithe map, which is dated 1838.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – Mrs. B. Hickling
Malvern Hills Highways Partnership has been busy upgrading and resurfacing roads and footpaths, filling potholes etc. Traffic calming is high on the agenda. You have all been monitored in villages by flashing signs recording your speed at 8 o'clock in the morning. Many villages are now recorded on a Computer Data Base dealing with Historic Building sites and Monuments overlaid onto Ordinance Survey maps, which are available for public research. Worcestershire Library and History Centre in the city is the first record office in the U.K to become a Microfilm Library with access to a huge network of genealogical records. The Newlands Waste site closed in January for 20 weeks to enable improvements. A Drainage/Handyman pilot scheme has been in operation in Martley this year. If successful this will be available, at County expense, in all parishes. "FIRST" Bus Company discontinued many services running at a loss in villages. The county has replaced most of these. We have also been granted a million pounds to provide flexi transport in the parishes of Malvern Hills. Planning permission was granted in February for a

new Christopher Whitehead School to be built on the Worcester City boundary at Earls Court Farm. The County boundaries are being reviewed. There will be public consultation before final decisions are made. This will happen in 2005. A Malvern Service Station will be opening in July, which will combine all District and County services under one roof at the Malvern Library. You will be able to pay all your taxes/rent etc at the same place.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – Mr. G. Jordan The Department of Transport has given an award for £992,000 to improve local transport in the Malvern Hills District. The award will develop a network of high quality shuttle services, demand responsive services and tourist services that will benefit passengers with a greater choice of travel options to local businesses, leisure facilities and shops. Worcester Police Basic Command Unit will be responsible as from 3 April for the whole of the Malvern Hills District area. The police station at Tenbury will remain open with a complement of one Sergeant and six Constables. With effect from April 2003 men will be eligible for concessionary travel fares at the age of 60 rather than having to wait until they are 65.

Shirley Sanders. Clerk to the Council.

Knightwick & District Trefoil Guild

A most interesting talk was given to the Knightwick and District Trefoil Guild by a missionary who went to Africa for 24 years. She recalled good times and bad times whilst she was teaching. We were shown the "African kitchen" which the lady would carry whilst the man would

play a musical instrument and carry a knife to protect the lady. The kitchen would be in a basket which was placed on a folded cloth wrapped as a ring and placed on the head, it would include the ceremonial axe, a selection of arrows (to kill vermin etc) rock salt, spoons, ladle and a sieve. The sieve gave the appearance of a long vase but made of mesh material. We all had a very interesting evening.

For our June meeting we have been invited to join the Malvern Trefoil Guild for a "Cook-out" which is to be held on Thursday 26 June at 7.30pm.

Sue Ganderton

(Continued from page 10)

Saunders explained that he had been looking for possible sites since his last visit and the demand from Martley for affordable dwellings has now risen to 35. As a possible site for 10 dwellings he circulated a map showing a strip of land in the field to the East of the Rogers' Coach Station. This was discussed but all agreed that it was not a good position, for the access points onto the B4204 were very near the bad corner where children would be walking to school. Mr Saunders asked for assistance in finding further sites and it was agreed that he would contact Mr B Draper in the near future to take the matter further. The Chairman thanked Mr Saunders for coming and all appreciated the importance and urgency in finding an alternative site.

Parish Matters

No further matters were raised and the Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and reports.

*C C Vyvyan-Robinson
Parish Clerk (821 623)*

**Coach Trip to Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens
Sunday 8th June 2003**

Martley & District Horticultural Society are organising an outing to Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens near Birmingham.

The Coach will leave Martley Village Hall at 1.15pm. returning to Martley at approximately 6.30pm.

Cost is £8.50 per person and numbers are limited. Please ring Judith on 888253 to book your seat.

**For Sale and Wanted in
Wichenford**

Adjustamatic bed with headboard and side rails for sale. Also Riser Recliner Chair in pale brown tweed. Both in excellent condition. Tel: 01886 888375

Handyman wanted in Wichenford twice a week by arrangement to do errands and some gardening. Tel: 01886888678

Wichenford Kneelers. Would anyone who can do petit-point and find tapestry like to undertake to do one or two beautiful kneelers for the Church. The designs have been painstakingly painted onto the canvas. Wools are provided in the kit. Please ring Mrs. Britten on 01886 888375

***The Friends of
The Chantry High School***

***Invite you to celebrate the
schools 40th anniversary
At their Anniversary Ball***

***At the Chantry High School,
Martley
On Saturday 21 June 2003***

Dress Code: Smart

***Tickets will include:
A champagne reception: 7:30
pm (in the school hall)
A buffet dinner & music with
The Worcester Jazz Band
(ending: 12:00 pm)***

***The tickets £17.50 & £15
Phone Gina on 01886 821998***



Nature Ramblings

This month Ramblings invites you to get out your camera ...

Fotos at the Fete

Yes! I do know how to spell “photography” but I just liked the look of it!! (It’s alliteration – *Ed.*)

Last years collection of photographs seemed to be well accepted but I’m sure there is more talent out there waiting to be discovered so this year we’ll have a modification. I wondered if we would have more entries if the element of competition was removed? Perhaps folk are a little diffident in submitting work if it will be judged on a First, Second, Third, Also Ran and “Don’t call us, we’ll call you” basis.

So let’s try it this year and see what happens – we’ll have the two groups as last year for Advanced and Family and the choices for the family section will be:

1. My Dad
2. My Pet
3. My Flower

For all the budding David Baileys out there this is the opportunity to snap your Dad at his best – or worst if you can get away with it! Obviously, I’m hoping to see pictures over a wide age range and anything from fairly formal to really relaxed.

Most families have a pet and some families have really surprising ones! So exercise your skills and patience and capture

the image with the “aaaaah” factor. I know this area is very keen on growing and the Horticultural tent is always a treat to visit so let’s get your favourite blossom on paper – I’d like to see colours and form that will make the viewer stop and look again.

The Advanced group we’ll leave the same as last year as an Open category – we did have a beautiful range of subject matter and I would be delighted to see more of the same.

If I can twist a few arms and get some free film, I may well give out a few rolls as a reward and encouragement but it won’t be for 1st, 2nd or even 43rd. !!

I also hope to organise a small competition to run alongside the exhibition – I shall roam around the locality and take some snaps to put on display – all you have to do is tell me where they are! Simple!!

I look forward to getting your entries in due course – there will be further details in the next issue of *The Villager*. As always, if you want to comment, criticise or moan you can contact me on 01886 888575 or alancolburn@aol.com

Happy Snapping!

Alan Colburn



In the Garden



Garden Tips for June

June is a difficult month for gardening. Runner beans will be growing well. Look out for blackfly on these and broad beans. The tender tops of broad beans should be removed to help combat this pest. Plant out marrows and courgettes. Potatoes will need soil drawn up around the stems to encourage roots to develop. This will produce a larger crop. Leeks will need planting out, an easy and worthwhile crop to grow.

One of the most reliable of winter crops, Brussels Sprouts will be growing well. The plants may need some support. The soil around the base of the plants needs to be firm, if too loose, the sprouts may produce open sprouts with lush growth. Celery is not an easy crop to grow. For best results plant self-blanching varieties in blocks, placing the plants 6" to 8" apart. The denser the crop the better the blanch, as the foliage shuts out the light. This crop needs feeding.

Crops that can still be sown in the garden in early June are French and runner beans, cabbage, beetroot, lettuce, peas (early variety), swede and turnip. Particular attention will be required for the moisture content of the soil as it can dry out quickly this month. Many vegetables are now grown in cell packs and planted out when large enough.

Half-hardy summer bedding plants may still need some protection from the cold at night in the early part of this month. Sow wallflower seed during the month. Now is the time to prune spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, philadelphus, pieris and weigela. To keep roses and other shrubs from greenfly, spray at regular intervals with a suitable insecticide.

Jack Bradley

NEW QUARTER-PAGE ADVERT



The Editor apologises for the reduced size of the type in this issue of The Villager—this is due to two long reports from our parish councils this month, needing a lot of space.