

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 17 No. 10

March 2008

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

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

### **Sundays**

**2nd Sunday in the month:**

**Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick

**Martley Ramblers** meet Church car park  
3rd Sunday in the month:

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

### **Mondays**

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

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

### **Tuesdays**

**Short Mat Bowling** :2.30pm Martley Memorial Hall (2pm winter months)

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

**Martley Mums and Tots:** 9.30-11.30am  
Martley Memorial Hall

### **Wednesdays**

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

**Martley Folk Club:** 1st Wednesday in the month at The Talbot, Knightwick

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

### **Thursdays**

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

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

See Church Words on page 27 for details of services

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

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

See page 28 for contact details of organisations

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

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

# OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

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



## ***Martley Ramblers***

10.30am Sunday 9 March

Helen and George Coombey-Jones always have intriguing titles for their walks. This month it is “Ridge and Furrow”. Shall we be covering ground ploughed and worked by countrymen of yore? We shall just have to turn up and find out, keeping fingers crossed for good walking weather. This is a morning walk, starting at 10.30am in the Church car park, so set your alarms for an early start.

*Kate King*



***Martley WI***

**7.30pm Heaton House**

**Wednesday 12 March.**

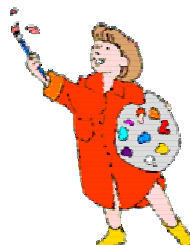
We have invited members from our twin WI at Tenbury to join us this month to hear Brian Draper talk of “The River Teme”. As this river goes through Tenbury, they will be seeing slides of, and hearing about, their home area and, of course, the Teme borders Martley as well. Brian is always an interesting and informative speaker, so anyone is welcome to come along and join us. The

competition is an interesting item of silver.

Margaret Lloyd James told us she would be moving to Whitbourne, so we shall be saying “Goodbye” to one of our longest-serving members. Since moving to Martley in 1971 and joining our WI, she has always been an active and supportive member, having served as President and Treasurer during those years. She has designed and produced our Millennium plate and the Ruby Williams plate before that, and designed our tablecloth. She has supported many efforts over the years when her artistic abilities and expertise have been much appreciated. We hope she will be very happy in her new home.

*Kate King*

*Margaret also played a large part in creating the map of Martley, which was another part of the WI Millennium commemorations.- Ed.*



## ***Martley and District Horticultural Society***

At our January meeting, Sylvia Sheldon gave a most interesting talk, illustrated with her own slides, about life in the Wyre Forest. Sylvia has lived in Knowles Mill, owned by the National Trust and lying by Dowles Brook in the Forest, for many years. She has seen colossal floods surging past her home on many occasions,



*Knowles Mill (From [http://www.walkingbritain.co.uk/walks/walks/walk\\_photo/213108/](http://www.walkingbritain.co.uk/walks/walks/walk_photo/213108/))*

getting several feet deep in the mill building, but thankfully not entering the house. This brook cuts the forest in half before eventually joining the Severn. The mill dates from 1757 and is the only one remaining in the Forest. A brass plaque on the mill house door marks a record flood in May 1924. There are two other major brooks in the Forest. Tracks can be badly affected by landslips in wet spells.

Sylvia checks her rain gauge daily and

records the extremely low temperatures in this wooded valley. She never goes out without her camera and has taken many atmospheric photos of woodland, plants and wildlife around her home. We saw scenes of misty, snowy glades and of the surging, toffee-coloured floods lapping into her garden. Her shots of flora and fauna were good. Sylvia is quite an expert on adders, and she was actually bitten by one once but did not

seek medical help and it had no lasting ill effects! One slide showed two adders wrestling for domination. There were several lovely Spring scenes and even a clump of Lily of the Valley growing wild in the Bewdely end of the Forest. A thoroughly enjoyable evening, it made us all want to visit the place!

The March meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup>, when Hilary Twigg talks on taking cuttings,

and members' hyacinths will be judged.

The Spring Show is on 29 March in the Martley Memorial Hall – just bring your flowers/

*Tina Steele.*

## ***Pudford Lane***

Plenty of birds were around to be counted for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Count at the end of January, including flocks of redwings and jackdaws. Bird sound was not

included otherwise the number of cockerels within earshot would have produced a high score. Former owners of Fairview, John and Jackie Owen, send their best wishes from Canada to all Lane occupants and hope to meet up when they visit in early summer. Not much news from other inhabitants but “Bon Voyage” to Natalie Jefferies who is travelling world wide during part of her Gap Year.

Finds in the lay-by this month have included ready-made, unopened boxed meals and sandwich lunches, all much appreciated by Pudford Poultry, following the old adage of “waste no, want not”. If the salary of the voluntary, unpaid lay-by operative is not increased, perhaps future finds might have to be utilised by humans.

*Kate King*

### ***Martley Spurs***

What can I say about January’s football? Perhaps I should talk about the weather instead. The Sunday Premier side did get points on the last Sunday in December, when they beat Arrow 2000, a result too late for me to include in last month’s Villager. They played again on 6 January, but lost to Perrywood. The Reserves lost to Barbourne on the same morning. All matches were postponed on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> due to waterlogged pitches and the following weekend as well.

Pitches were usable again over the final weekend of the month when the Saturday eleven lost to FC Tything and the Reserves could not overcome Colwall St James. All these postponed

games will have to be played at some time, but I have no idea when. We shall just have to hope the weather improves and does not cause any more havoc.

*Beth Williams*

### ***Don Taylor Memorial Gates***

Thanks to everyone who has made donations to the fund for the Memorial Gates in memory of Don Taylor. The fund is still open for donations towards this lasting memorial for Don. For further info please see the January issue of The Villager or ring me, David Sherwin.

If you would like to make a donation please send it to Rev’d D Sherwin at Martley Rectory. Cheques should be made payable to St Peter’s Church Martley, marked on the back “for Don Taylor Memorial Gates”. Any other money should please have an accompanying note.

*Rev’d D Sherwin*

### ***Update on That Cat***

You may remember that at this time last year I told you about a kitten which I declared was in need of a feline ASBO. Well he still needs one! He has had a first birthday and, being him, has grown into a lovely grey teenage cat, but he has also increased my credit card bills and further filled the vet’s pockets.

He went missing a few weeks ago. It was wet, windy and very cold and I searched everywhere, in all the presumed places, but to no avail. After a poor night’s sleep worrying about him, I finally found him next morning

with one side of his head all swollen and covered in blood with his front claws all worn away. He was cold, wet, trembling and obviously in pain and shock. He had clearly been in a fight with an unidentified, but certainly bigger, beast and is now totally blind in one eye – but he has got his sharp nails back again.

So now I have a one-eyed ball of grey fur with a surgical pin in one leg. You would think all this, as well as having his manhood removed, would slow him down. Not one little bit! Dead mice and the odd robin appear in the garden, he still skateboards with my slippers, breaks the speed limit across the lawns and patio, loves playing up his elderly feline housemate, tries to catch flies and moths and knocking things over in the process, digging up bulbs, rolling around people's feet and slapping me across the face to wake me up in the morning.

Of course when he is curled up on my lap, purring away while I stroke him under the chin or scratch behind his



ear, he is absolutely gorgeous. Even if he does cost me a fortune in vet's bills, wrecks the furniture, conservatory and garden, has just one good eye, besides driving me and the old cat crazy, I would not be without him for all the tea in China.

*Beth Williams*



## ***Happy 18th Birthday!***

Congratulations to Adam Norgrove. Love Mum, Dad, Darrell, Ryan and Alison



## ***Teme Valley Views***

*From the Teme Valley  
Children's Centre*

The bi-annual Nearly New Sales are highlights of the Children's Centre's year. The success of these occasions is entirely dependent on a willing and enthusiastic band of volunteers. The team arrives a couple of hours before the sale starts to receive and swiftly sort any items that are dropped off. After a quick coffee and cake, and only two hours after the drop-off time, the doors are opened to the eager shoppers. For the next two hours the volunteers don't stop sorting, selling and recording who has sold what. After a frantic selling period, the team quickly tidy up before relaxing over a much needed lunch. The day is great fun and we are always looking for more volunteers.

As a volunteer, you get back 80% of the sale price of any of your items. In addition, at this sale we have introduced an extra benefit for volunteers. The Nearly New Sales have become extremely popular and to

ensure that there is enough space in the hall, we have had to limit number of clothing items allowed per seller to 100. However, if you volunteer then you can bring along an unlimited number of clothing items. The number of pieces of equipment or toys you can bring is unlimited.

The next sale is on 12 April, so if you have any items you would like to sell, bring them to Great Witley Village Hall. If you haven't time to volunteer, you'll receive 70% of the sale price (any profit will be used for the benefit of children in the Teme Valley).

Please contact the Children's Centre (01886 812982) for a sellers pack or for more information about volunteering.

### ***Martley's Past***

At Boys School – March 1897: 'March 8<sup>th</sup> A full school today – 68 present.'

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Copy of HMI's Report: - "The Boys are making considerable improvement in Spelling. Object lessons are successfully taught and fairly good instruction is given in most of the remaining subjects. The Reading of the First standard and Recitation in the upper division need increased attention. Capital order is maintained. As the Master teaches six standards unaided the existence of the defects above mentioned is not to be wondered at. He certainly needs help with his work. The cleaning of the School must in future be more thorough and frequent. Dusting should be done daily by a person appointed

by the Managers and not merely by the School Children". Staff: H Humpherson (CertM)

(Note: the HMI's report in March 1898 contains this first sentence – "Considering that the Master has to teach six standards quite unassisted, the instruction may be considered satisfactory")

Progress – what Progress?

AB

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

Unapproved draft record of the meeting held on Monday 7th January 2008

Two members of the public attended in addition to councillors.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

The Chairman reported that Abberley Parish Council had taken out a loan to purchase SMART water, with the intention to sell it on. The Chairman confirmed that it would have to be built into the precept for Martley Parish Council for April 2008.

The Chairman reported that he hopes to attend a meeting on 16 January at Little Witley about Martley Neighbourhood Watch. Members of the public and Councillors reported recent thefts in Pudford Lane and Church Lane.

### **Main meeting**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 20:05. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd. December 2007: accept the minutes as a true record.

### **District Councillor's report:**

Councillor. Mrs. B. Williams reported

that it had been quiet over the Christmas break and reported that she will be attending various meetings in the next week including the area planning meeting. Cllr. Williams confirmed that additional monies from Martley Relief and Need, the charity for which she is a trustee, had been given to Martley residents affected by the floods. They also gave small gifts to all elderly residents in and around Heaton House as well as those who have recently been bereaved. Details will be included in Cllr. Williams annual report.

**Planning:**

Applications received December 2007: 07/01889/FUL Admiral Rodney Inn. Demolition and re-build of bowling alley and 6 letting bedrooms. Request extension to return date. 07/01898/FUL 3 Prickley Bungalows, Prickley. Alteration and extension. 07/01786/LBC Plumtree Cottage, Prickley Green, Complete rethatching. 07/01877/LBCFirs Farm, Berrow Green. Replace missing pentice boards, erect retaining wall, block window

**Approvals/ refusals:** 07/01667/FUL Orangery at Barbers. Approved. 07/01660/FUL. Extn. to bun'w at Fairview, Pudford Lane. Refused. 07/01719/FUL Garage/store at Penny Patch, Hillside. Approved. 07/01610/TCN. Fell ash trees at Martley Court Approved

**Pending:** 07/01633/FUL. Replacement of dwelling at Treetops. 07/01390/FUL Pool at Hawkenest Farm

**Correspondence included:**

MHDC – regarding flood victims in Martley., WCC – Cost of work at Scar Bank, West Mercia Police Authority – Invitation to consultation evening, MHDC – Housing advice, WCC – Temporary closure of B4204 Ham Bridge

**Finance:**

Cheques totalling £1374.06 were presented for agreement and signature. Clarification is required on one cheque, and therefore, the accounts will be re-submitted to the next meeting.

**Parish Path Warden's Report:**

The Chairman reported on behalf of the Parish Path Warden that some time ago a diversion order was submitted to The Parish Council, requesting diversion of the public footpath at Rodge Hill Farm, which was agreed to by the parish Council. However, the Parish Path Warden reported that some organisations are refusing to support the diversion. The Chairman is to clarify the situation with Worcester County Council.

**Urgent decisions since the last meeting:**

The Clerk had been contacted by a firm of architects involved with Treetops, asking if they could make representation at this meeting. The Clerk and Chairman felt that this would not be appropriate until a planning application had been submitted to MHDC.

**Councillor's reports and items for future agendas:**

The Clerk is to ask for an update on

the situation of the overgrown hedges on Ankerdine. The Clerk is to locate the plans for the new Caplor homes. The Clerk is to ask for an update on the jetting of the drain on the road through Martley, opposite the entrance to Badger Close. The Clerk is to write to Highways to ask for the 30mph signs to be moved at the same time as the curbs on Mortlake Drive are dropped, to enable people with buggies, wheelchairs, etc to pass in order to access the dropped curbs. Reports of recent thefts were reiterated and residents were asked to remain vigilant. Councillor Rothwell reported that over the Christmas break she had posted 60 leaflets asking for responses in relation to what the youth of Martley would like to have provided. She confirmed that she had received a few responses, one of which was a request for 5-a-side football goals. This request will be added to the agenda for the next meeting where Councillor Rothwell will discuss requests and provide an estimate of the cost of the goals. The Clerk is to write to Highways to ascertain what planning permission is required for agricultural field entrances. The Police have warned residents about parking on the roadside in Mortlake Drive. The Clerk is to write to Highways regarding the open hole at Berrow Green.

**Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting is on Monday 4 February 2008 at 8pm.

## ***Martley Web Mesh***

Exciting news! At the time of writing (early February), we have JUST heard that we have been awarded a grant that will enable expansion of the web mesh service to new areas that are out of reach of the current set-up and also enable us to replace some of the older equipment (no, unfortunately that does not include the personnel!)

More news in the next issue of The Villager.

*M. Higgins*

### ***Mobile Library***

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

#### **Malvern View**

10am-10.30am

#### **Wichenford church**

10.35am-11am

#### **Kings Green Farm**

11.05am-11.35am

#### **Rosses Green**

11.40am-12.10pm

### ***Martley Library***

#### ***Opening Hours***

Martley Memorial Hall  
Berrow Green Road  
Martley, Worcs WR6 6PQ

Mon 2.00-7.00pm

Wed 4.00-6.00pm

Thu 10.00am-1.00pm

Fri 2.00-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-12 noon





# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

**WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS**

**Janet Andrews**

**01886 888303**

**Sheila Richards**

**01886 888378**



## ***Church Flowers***

2 March Lent, no flowers  
9 March Lent, no flowers  
16 March Palm Sunday  
23 March Easter decorations  
30 March Easter decorations

## ***Ladies Fellowship***

The Ladies Fellowship meeting is on 18 March at 2.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

## ***Presentation***

A presentation will be made to John Jenkins, known to many as John the Post, upon his retirement, as an appreciation of his very many years 'on our round'. His willingness to do a kindness for elderly folk and good humour, despite what the weather is throwing at him, has been a tonic to one and all. He will be sorely missed. A small committee has been formed. If you would like to contribute please contact Pam and George Webb, The Cottage, Rosses Lane, Wichenford, tel: 01886-888325 or Bill Hylan on 01886-888431.

## ***Workwise Scheme***

The Workwise scheme offers individual transport solutions for Worcestershire residents wanting to access employment and training opportunities but who are unable to do so because they do not have access to suitable transport, such as those living in rural areas with no regular public transport services. The scheme includes personalised travel planning and moped loans at a cost of £5 a week for up to 12 months.

Those who believe the scheme may be able to benefit them must be 16 years or over, live in Worcestershire, have an offer of employment, training or further education with a start date and have no other suitable means of transport available.

The Workwise scheme also provides Compulsory Basic Training (required by law), safety equipment, insurance of the vehicle, 24 breakdown cover and full maintenance and servicing. There are now 50 mopeds for Worcestershire residents that are issued on a first come first served basis for those who meet the eligibility

criteria. Employers who have difficulty recruiting employees due to their rural location can also contact the scheme for advice and possible financial assistance.

For further information on the Workwise scheme or to receive an application form visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/workwise](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/workwise) or call 01905-765765.

### ***Wichenford Local Heritage Group***

#### **Meeting 19 March**

We unfortunately have not been able to re-book Angie Bolton from the Portable Antiquities Scheme, so instead we will be providing home-grown talks.

**Wichenford and the Commonwealth—what really happened** . Following the riveting talk in January by Malcolm Atkin, one of our members, Margot Brookes, discovered ten pages of claims by Wichenford people against the Parliamentary forces 1646 -1647. The pages are in the process of being read by various members of the palaeography group and then will be worked on to produce house by house



*English Civil War re-enactors*

details - in some cases - and details of the billeting of soldiers in the village. We didn't escape the taxes or the scavenging! And you can bet there wasn't a pig or a rasher of bacon left anywhere within a 3 miles radius!

Following this there will be a brief Annual General Meeting, followed by refreshments. The second half of the evening is entitled: **The Stuff of Legends** and will cover how stories, however fanciful, might contain interesting and revealing grains of truth. Three stories, one from Norfolk, one from Gloucester and one from right here 'near Martley' will be used as illustrations.

### ***Bluebell Ride in Wichenford***

Following the success of the Bluebell Cross Country Ride last year, we have planned another for Sunday 27 April.

Last year we had the most beautiful day, and the bluebells in the woods were at their very best in full flower and with the sun dappling through the trees it was a stunning sight of purple and blue. It was a sight and scent never to be forgotten.

The ride was held on the farm, starting in the field next to Wichenford Church, and covering about a ten to twelve mile course through the woods and across the fields.

There were plenty of optional jumps of various different heights and sizes. Ponies, hunters, dressage horses, eventers and even polo ponies of every shape and colour entered, and we raised over £3,000 for local charities.

This year we plan a bit of a tea tent, as there were requests for refreshments after a long hot ride!

Start time is from 10am, and last entries at 1pm. Riders take part at their own risk, and of course need to wear hard hats and adequate protection. There will be WCs and first aid on hand. Entries on the day are £15 for adults and £10 for children under 14. Each rider will get a rosette – (or is it the horse?).

We are lucky to have the support and sponsorship of John and his team at the Equestrian and Country Leisure Limited at Top Barn near Hallow, a wonderful shop where you can get everything you possibly want for your horses and other pets.

Any volunteers on the day to help



monitor the course and road crossings would be much appreciated.

Enquiries:  
Georgina  
Britten Long

E m a i l :

gblwichenford@aol.com or phone  
07767 788 273

### ***Important Award for Farmer***

John Tingey, Gloucestershire's deputy NFU chairman has been awarded the Summers Trophy, the highest honour that his fellow Gloucestershire farmers can bestow.

John, who is the eldest son of Ruth Tingey of The Old Vicarage and her late husband, Leonard, grew up in

Wichenford. In July, after the floods, John heard that piglets were in danger of dying due to the lack of drinking water that had been cut off because of the flooding. John decided to do all he could to help. He knew that there was plenty of water on the top of the Cotswolds and called on farmers to supply any equipment they had to convey water to the stricken animals. With Andrew Butler, the regional office policy adviser, they enabled water to reach cattle and chicken farms as well as the pigs.

Grassland suffered severely in the floods and this also meant a serious shortage of silage for feed, straw was also in very short supply. John contacted Chris Peachey, who is much involved with the ARC Addington Fund, and Chris asked the charity if they could persuade farmers not affected by floods to give straw, much of which is chopped on these large arable farms, and to leave it in their fields. The Addington Fund would then pay for it to be baled and the recipient farmers would only be asked to pay for the cost of haulage. Everyone was in agreement and this was done. Many farmers donated 30-50 acres of straw and a total of 3,500 tonnes was given. Other farmers donated 1,000 tonnes of silage and also some hay. The fund also received substantial financial contributions.

We all congratulate John on organising this relief and helping to save so many animals. John wishes to thank and praise all those involved and states that the farming community

is very good at pulling together in tough times. Well done John!

*(This item was sent in by John's proud mum, a resident of Wichenford, and the story appeared originally in a farming magazine from Gloucestershire.)*

### **Wichenford Village Fete**

This year the fete will be held on Saturday 26 July.



### **Wichenford 100 Club**

Wichenford 100 Club January 2008 winners:

No 7 E Chappell £84.50

And returned subscriptions to

No.185 Brian Finch £12.00

No.211 G Murphy £12.00

Every draw tells a story. One of today's winning numbers was returned by someone who had held it for 3 years without a win. It was immediately bought by someone else - who won back the subscription a mere 4 hours later. And now they have won again with the same number!!!

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

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14 January 2007 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Councillor G Britten Long chaired the meeting. (Chairman)

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

Councillor Williams was asked if a decision had been made regarding the new improved access for The Masons. The clerk was asked to send all information regarding the access to Councillor Williams. County Councillor Davies briefly mentioned Rosses and Guises Lanes as the parish council knew the decision of the public inquiry. He asked how the public meeting went on 3 January. A speeding review is being set up only on A and B roads and will take two years to complete. There are 42 speed changes between Tenbury Wells and Worcester. The Regional Spatial Strategy workshops are in progress and we can send two councillors. Councillors Panton and Rendall will be attending from our parish. The proposed budget figures are better

than expected. Schools have more funding per pupil. The parish council asked who to write to at County Hall with regard to the poor workmanship on the highways. When accidents happen on the carriageway, the parish council should report them to the accident department at County Hall who will be able to keep a record and hopefully identify the danger zones.

### **Parish Council Co-Option**

A paper vote was taken and Mr R Latham was unanimously elected.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2007 were read, accepted and signed as a true record.

### **Progress Reports**

Rosses and Guises lane update: The decision made by the inspector is to turn them into BOATS. A public meeting was held in early January and the majority of parishioners present were going to write and object to the decision. Councillor Randall has asked for written confirmation from John Wallace of the Highways Department of the maintenance status of the northern end of Rosses Lane and no reply has been received. (Clerk to chase up). The chairman thanked Cllr Rendall for the fantastic job she has done and the amount of time she has given freely.

Litter picking: Saturday 8 December was a very wet day and it was postponed to the Sunday. Not many people turned up, but most of Venn Lane and the main village road were cleared. The clerk has contacted Malvern Hills and asked for the Litter

Wardens to come to our parish. She will keep chasing them up.

Festival Housing. It is apparent from the emails received from Festival Housing that there is some confusion as to which hedge the parish council want them to look at. The clerk send some pictures of the correct hedge.

### **Planning**

Applications considered since the last meeting. 07/01688/FUL Proposed garage/ carport for Cob House Farm Wichenford. The parish council has no objections to this proposal.

Decisions made by MHDC. 07/01297/Ful. Extension to living space and additional parking at 4 Queensway, Wichenford. Refused. 07/01372/Ful. Proposed erection of oak framed garden room for The Tallett Cockshoot Farm. Refused. 07/01464/Ful – 01466/LBC. Retrospective permission sought to rectify window and door positions, for Laughern Brook House, Wichenford. Approved.

### **Finance**

The income/expenditure accounts were discussed and accepted. The current balance up to 31 October 2007 stands at £13,705.03. There were three cheques totaling £649.00 for agreement and signature. The clerk asked if the parish council would consider hiring a mini digger to enable the lengthsmen to clear the ditches at Venn Lane and Coalbrook. The parish council agreed and asked the clerk to write to the highways department to inform them of our intentions and send them the bill.

Wichenford churchyard. It was

resolved to grant £300.00 to Wichenford Church.

Budget. Councillors were given a draft budget sheet to discuss. It was proposed to cut Section 137 (Grants) to £350.00 and increase the contingency to £1250.00 (up £1050). A precept of £6,700 was agreed.

Wichenford Memorial Hall. (update). The Brian Draper evening held in November was a great success, although no fund raising events have been held since then. Two new members have joined the Memorial Hall Committee.

### **Councillors' Training**

Councillors Panton and Rendall are to attend the workshop for WMRSS at Sinton Green Peace Hall. Councillor Panton will be attending the Calc area meeting on 23 Jan. There is £20,000 available to parish councils for improvements of village facilities.

### **Report on SWJCS**

Councillors attended the meeting at Hallow. As a parish council we need to keep an eye on the Southern Link road which would devastate Hallow.

### **Correspondence**

For decision by the parish council. WCC Childrens and Young People's Strategic Partnership Consultation Event will be attended by Cllr Britten-Long.

For information only. All correspondence listed on the agenda has been distributed in the folder to each councillor. The parish council's response to the decision of the public inspector on Rosses Lane and Guises Lane. The County Council's objection

to the proposed modification order on Rosses Lane. Email regarding the next PCCG meeting.

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

The parish has had two visits from tree wardens from the Ancient Tree Forum, who walked Rosses Lane. The parish tree warden is attending a tree grafting course and going to graft a Wichenford Wonder Apple, which will be sold at the fete. The clerk was asked to contact Lower Broadheath parish and ask where they got the Rights of Way map from and at what cost. The clerk was asked to write a letter to the County Council regarding the state of the verges along Barbers Lane due to the refuse lorries. The parish council would like The Village Greens Open space planning document put on the next agenda.

### **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

Next Meeting 10 March 2008.

A meeting was arranged for 28 April 2008. This will be an ordinary meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford at 7.30 for 8pm



Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

# *The Origins of Easter*

## **The many roots of Easter**

Easter in Northern Europe is a time of rebirth and resurrection, when plants and animals that were apparently dead or sleeping during the preceding dark months of Winter, return to life. For Christians, Easter is the annual festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and it is the principal feast of the Christian year; however, Easter has its origins in much older, pre-Christian traditions. Scholars generally accept the derivation of the name that was proposed by the 8th-century English scholar St. Bede, believing it probably comes from Eastre (Ostara), the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of Spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated a month corresponding to April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox; 21 March. Traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in Easter eggs, also originally symbols of fertility and creation, painted with bright colours to represent the sunlight of spring, and used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts.

Such festivals, and the stories and legends that explain their origin, were

common in ancient religions. A Greek legend tells of the return of Persephone, daughter of Demeter, goddess of the earth, from the underworld to the light of day. Her return symbolized to the ancient Greeks the resurrection of life in the spring after the desolation of winter. Many ancient peoples shared similar legends. The Phrygians believed that their omnipotent deity went to sleep at the time of the winter solstice (21 December), and they performed ceremonies with music and dancing at the spring equinox to awaken him.

The Christian festival of Easter has probably adapted several converging traditions. Most scholars emphasize the original relation of Easter to the Jewish festival of Passover, or Pesach, from which is derived Pasch, now another name for Easter. The early Christians, many of whom were of Jewish origin, were brought up in the Hebrew tradition and regarded Easter as a new feature of the Passover festival, a commemoration of the advent of the Messiah as foretold by the prophets

## **The many dates of Easter**

People celebrate at the time of year in which Easter falls according to their beliefs and their religious denominations, but Christians commemorate Good Friday as the day that Jesus Christ died and Easter Sunday as the day that He was resurrected. For Christians, Easter is now celebrated on varying dates



between March 22 and April 25 and this year falls on its earliest possible date, which is also the time of the Spring equinox.

According to the New Testament, Christ was crucified on the eve of Passover and shortly afterward rose from the dead. In consequence, the Easter festival commemorated Christ's resurrection. In time, a serious difference over the date of the Easter festival arose among Christians. Those of Jewish origin celebrated the resurrection immediately following the Passover festival, which, according to their Babylonian lunar calendar, fell on the evening of the full moon (the 14th day in the month of Nisan, the first month of the year); so by their reckoning, Easter, from year to year, fell on different days of the week. Christians of Gentile origin, however, wished to commemorate the resurrection on the first day of their week, Sunday, so Easter occurred on the same day of the week, but from year to year it fell on different dates.

An important historical result of the difference in reckoning the date of Easter was that the Christian churches in the East, which were closer to the birthplace of the new religion and in which old traditions were strong, observed Easter according to the date of the Passover festival. The churches of the West, descendants of Greco-Roman civilization, celebrated Easter on a Sunday.

In 325AD, the Roman emperor Constantine I, convened the Council of Nicaea. This council unanimously

ruled that the Easter festival should be celebrated throughout the Christian world on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal (Spring) equinox; and that if the full moon should occur on a Sunday and thereby coincide with the Passover festival, Easter should be commemorated on the Sunday following.

The accurate determination of the date, however, proved an impossible task in view of the limited knowledge of the world in the 4th-century and so Easter was celebrated on different dates in different parts of the world. About 465, the church adopted a system of calculation proposed by the astronomer Victorinus, who had been commissioned by Pope Hilarius (r. 461–68) to reform the calendar and fix the date of Easter. Elements of his method are still in use.

Because the Easter holiday affects secular affairs in many countries, it has long been urged as a matter of convenience that the movable dates of the festival be either narrowed in range or replaced by a fixed date, as is Christmas. In 1923 the problem was referred to the Holy See, which has found no canonical objection to the proposed reform. In 1928 the British Parliament enacted a measure allowing the Church of England to commemorate Easter on the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. Despite these steps toward reform, Easter continues to be a movable feast.

*Taken from [www.history.com](http://www.history.com) and other sites.*

*M Higgins*



## In the Garden



March is a busy time for gardeners as the worst of the weather is now, hopefully, behind us, and even fair-weather gardeners can venture outdoors. Also this year the Easter holiday falls in March, so NO EXCUSES for not dusting off the gardening tools and getting down to some fresh air and exercise!

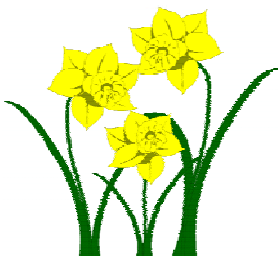
Should the weather let us down, you can usefully spend time perusing the catalogues and order bedding plants like fuchsias, geraniums, marguerites and other young plug plants from mail-order suppliers. It's also a good time to order summer-flowering bulbs, such as dahlias, gladioli and eucomis.

Once outside, you can give the roses some attention. Remove any dead, diseased or damaged stems from roses this month. Cut stems of bush varieties back to an outward-facing bud, shortening them by about a third. Prune away one or perhaps two flowering shoots from large mahonias each year, after flowering to encourage a succession of new shoots to grow up from the base. Old, leggy shoots can be cut right down to ground level. Check that runners from your mahonia have not come up in unwanted

places – if they have, dig them up and cut them off before they get too much of a hold. The stems of dogwoods, willows and hardy fuchsias should be pruned back hard this month to encourage fresh, new growth. Cut down tall stems on *Buddleia davidii* to emerging shoots lower down the plant, shaping the shrub to control its size. Summer-flowering clematis such as 'Etoile Violette', need to have last year's growth pruned out now. Cut any tangled old stems down to a pair of new shoots near ground level as soon as possible. Lift and divide any congested snowdrop clumps after flowering but while still in leaf.

Sprinkle general-purpose fertiliser along the base of hedges and around trees and shrubs. There are several good organic varieties to choose from. Follow feeding by a generous mulch of that lovely compost you have been making – your plants will reward you!

MH



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the world

Back in 2004 Bono, the leader of the band U2, said “We are the first generation that can look extreme poverty in the eye and say this and mean it—we have the cash, we have the drugs, we have the science. Do we have the will to make poverty history?”

*Rev Bruce Thomson*



# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

**L**ike slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the action of human beings” *Nelson Mandela.*

But the gap between rich and poor has never been wider, so where do we start if we want to address this heartbreaking world issue? Perhaps it is important to start with what we have experienced of poverty. Not everyone has travelled to the developing world to see poverty first hand but most of us I’m sure have noticed cold and hungry people huddling in a doorway in a street at some time in our lives. Maybe you have experienced difficulty in paying the telephone bill or struggled to live on the minimum wage or have been out of work for some time and couldn’t pay the rent.

In my work in overseas aid and development over the last nine years, I made a distinction between moderate poverty and extreme poverty. People living with moderate poverty can meet basic needs, food, water and shelter but generally lack the resources to improve their lives. A person living in extreme poverty, however, is unable to meet even these basic survival needs. Extreme poverty usually occurs in developing countries. 1.1 billion

people out of a total world population of 6.1 billion, for example, have no access to clean water and therefore are unable to live a normal life.

What are some of the causes of this gap between rich and poor and can anything be done about it? The Make Poverty History campaign that started in 2005 identified three man-made factors that keep people trapped in unrelenting poverty. These are unjust global trade, the debt burden faced by developing countries and ineffective aid. Some progress has been made to address these issues but more needs to be done to keep world leaders on track to fulfil their commitments. For example, back in 1970 the UK committed itself to a target of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to the developing world. We have still not reached the target and for the year 2007/2008 the amount given will be in the region of 0.47 of GNI. We need to continue to keep our government accountable for promises made at G8 summits and the like.

The Worcester Diocese will be focussing on six key areas in the coming year. One of these areas is world poverty. As a benefice we will be examining how we can make a difference as church communities and as individuals to this huge issue facing

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## Church Diary March 2008

Sat 1 March	2.30pm Bishop's Enthronement, Worcester Cathedral
Sun 2 March	8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel 11.00am Family Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.00am Worship All-Together, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Worship All-Together, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mon 3 March	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 7.30pm Lent Group at Wichenford Oak (home of Bruce Thomson)
Tue 4 March	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 11.00am Lent Group at Nora Parsons Day Centre 7.30pm Lent Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 5 March	9.00am Morning Prayer Wichenford and Martley Churches
Thu 6 March	7.30pm Lent Group at Knightwick Village Hall
Sat 8 March	Diocesan Synod
Sun 9 March	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00 am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 4.00pm Songs of Praise, St Laurence, Wichenford
Mon 10 March	8.30am Prayer Breakfast 7.30pm Lent Group at Wichenford Oak
Tue 11 March	9.00am Morning Prayer, Martley, Broadwas, and Wichenford 11.00am Lent Group at Nora Parsons Day Centre 7.30pm Lent Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 12 March	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thur 13 March	2.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter, Martley – Sheep 2.00pm Pastoral Care Group Meeting at the Rectory 7.30pm Lent Group at Knightwick Village Hall
Sun 16 March (Palm Sunday)	11.00am Worship All-Together, Laylocks Garden Centre 6.30pm Benefice Communion, St Peter, Martley
Mon 17 March	9 – 11.00am Reflection & Prayers, Knightwick Chapel 9.00pm Compline, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tue 18 March	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 2.00pm Martley Primary School Eucharist, St Peter, Martley 9.00pm Compline, St Peter, Martley
Wed 19 March	9.00pm Compline, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Thu 20 March	9.00am Broadwas Primary School Eucharist, St Mary Magdalene 12 noon Chrism Service, Worcester Cathedral 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
Fri 21 March	(Good Friday—all Churches open) 12 noon – 3.00pm 3 hour reflection, St Peter, Martley 9.00pm Compline, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Sat 22 March	9.00pm Tenebre Service, Knightwick Chapel
Sun 23 March Easter Sunday	9.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00am Family Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
Wed 26 March	10.15 Easter Songs of Praise, Heaton House
Sun 30 March	10.30am Benefice Service, St Laurence, Wichenford
Mon 31 March	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Leonard, Cotheridge

# Village Contacts



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## ***And finally ...***

Two jokes supplied by a Mrs K of Pudford Lane:

*A psychiatrist's secretary walked into his office and said "There is a gentleman in the waiting room asking to see you. Claims he is invisible". The psychiatrist answered, "Tell him I can't see him".*



*While at the cinema recently, I could not hear the dialogue over the chatter of the two women sitting in front of me. Unable to bear it any longer, I tapped one of them on the shoulder. "Excuse me", I said, "I can't hear". "I should hope not" she replied sharply, "This is a private conversation".*

### ***Achemist!***

Can you turn a HEAD into a FOOT, or GIVE into TAKE, changing only one letter in a word at a time? (Answers below).

HEAD MEAD MEAT MOAT MOOT
FOOT
GIVE LIVE LIKE LAKE TAKE