

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 18 No. 10

March 2009

Editor: Michelle Higgins (01886888344)

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

Advertising: Aileen Parker. 01886 888456

Distribution: *Martley* George & June Lawrence (01886 821064) *Wichenford* Karen Furber (01886 888449)

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

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: 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

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 and 3rd Wednesday at The Admiral Rodney

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 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



Martley 100 Club

We have our first winner for Martley 100 Club: January winner -number 28 Mandy Gardner. Congratulations! Mandy will receive a cheque for £25.00. (Note to Villagers-Remember-there will be two draws in June and November. You have to be in it to win it!)

Martley Primary School Eco-Club News

Martley Primary School is running an Eco-Club on a Fridays after school, from 3.15-4.15pm. Because of the high number of pupils wanting to join last term, the school decided to split the groups into KS1 and KS2, each attending on a half-termly basis so all the children get a chance to take an active part during each session.

Last term it was the turn of KS2. The first job was to plant out the Spring bulbs that parents kindly donated. They certainly will be a cheering sight to anyone visiting the school. Continuing the bulb-planting theme, Autumn onion sets were also planted. We installed a compost bin, and a wormery! In December, Richard from

Wiggly Wiggles came and gave a short talk about composting with worms, to the school during Assembly. Everyone learnt how important composting is for the environment, and especially how important worms are in processing organic waste that would otherwise rot in a landfill site. There was great excitement, and only a few “yuks!” when we took one kilo of Tiger worms from their tub and added them to the new school worm-bin. The pupils are collecting apple cores, banana skins and orange peel from lunchboxes after breaktime, and this is taken to the compost bin or wormery. Although paper and cardboard can be composted or processed by the worms, these materials need to be finely shredded first because they have a very low moisture content that makes them difficult for worms and compost processes to deal with. We also collected fallen leaves to make leaf mould, which will be used to improve the soil in the vegetable bed next year. We made fat-balls for the birds, and installed them in the wooded areas, together with seed feeders.

AH



WALKERS ARE WELCOME

I'm delighted to say that Andrew Bibby, Secretary of the WaW Towns Network committee, was able to tell me in mid-January that they had agreed to award Martley "Walkers are Welcome" status.

"Walkers are Welcome" is an initiative that started life in Hebden Bridge in 2006. It has strong connections with the Ramblers Association. Richard McHugh from Central Stores drew my attention to an article on WaW that he had found in the rambler's magazine. After a little bit of effort and consistent help from the shops, pubs and Martley Parish Council, a bid was submitted. We were on to a winner. Martley has made walkers welcome for many years—they bring important trade and enjoy our well-kept paths. Our new accreditation is an important official stamp of approval, will advertise our area further afield and allow us to join with other like-minded communities.

Martley is now on the WaW website (www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk), and is only the fifteenth location to receive this status. There will be a certificate on its way to us shortly. At the time of writing (end of January), it is planned to hold a launch event that will be publicised by the WaW Towns Network, who will also lend us the WaW banner for the occasion. And window stickers are available too, for offering to our local shops, pubs, Church and the Library Link.

The 2009 WaW conference is being held in Church Stretton in

mid-October 2009, and we hope very much to attend and meet WaW Towns Network committee and other members.

As part of our acceptance of the WaW status, we need to organise a small committee to manage the on-going facilities we offer to walkers. If you would like to be involved, or just find out more about welcoming walkers, please contact me—and I might be contacting you!

We are in the process of re-vamping the Martley Loop walk of the Worcestershire Way, and I am currently in discussion with County Hall about organising some sort of launch for its opening—it would be sensible to be able to celebrate the two events at the same time. Watch this space for further news.

John Nicklin

01886 888318 johnn@martley.org

Martley Pre-School Snippets

We would like to welcome Charlie Cant, Phoebe Mace and Sophie Elliker-Cole to Pre-School. March is a busy month at Pre-School, especially in our 'wellie Wednesday' sessions because the children start planting (from seed) many of their vegetables and flowers that they will plant on outside once the frosts have ceased. These 'wellie Wednesday'



mornings are spent outdoors, usually in our garden, in all weathers, sometimes venturing off site into the local community. Learning in the outdoors is highly beneficial to children's physical, mental and cognitive development. Research has shown that outdoor environments contribute to a healthy immune system- especially playing with mud! In an ever changing society, little time is allowed for children today to enjoy the things that we (as children) loved to do. Thinking back- how many of your favourite memories from your childhood involved time spent in the outdoors?

Recycle recycle!

A very big 'thank you' to everyone who donated unwanted clothing, bedding and shoes, for the clothes recycling collection. We raised £117.00 and have another two collections planned this year in April and November. Our phones and printer cartridge recycling has been running for three years and is ongoing, with collection points at Pre-School and Martley Post Office. You can help the environment and raise funds for Pre-School, which as you may know, is a registered charity. Don't forget! We are a registered eco-setting with 20 years of history and children can start from two years old. Free government places of 15 hours per week start from the term after your child's third birthday.

Clubs

We also have breakfast and after school clubs for children aged two to

thirteen years. If you need any information, or would like to book a place for your child please feel free to call Kath or Lucy on 01886 889127 or visit our website www.martleypreschool.co.uk

Kathryn Smith BA (Hons) FdA EYPS

The Crown Inn **Marstons Community Pub** **of the Year 2008**

We are proud to have won this award, because when my husband, Nick, and I bought the pub in June 2006 we both felt strongly that a village pub should be at the centre of community life.

I had lived in Suckley since 1987 and knew the pub as it was before the extension was added. I hadn't been to the pub since because I had seen the publicity in the Worcester News announcing that the pub did "Pacific rim food". I didn't actually know what that was but it sounded expensive!

Nick and I were horrified to find that the front door had been locked and realised that the pub was no longer a "village pub". We bought the lease and set about making sure that everyone was welcome. We opened up the front door, reinstated a bar approximately where it always had been, re-introduced a pool table and dart board. We fenced the play area, put up trellis round the outdoor eating area and planted some trees.

We introduced menus with pricing so that the food was affordable—somewhere you could go for a drink, a takeaway, a traditional pub-meal or really good modern English food if

you wanted something special. We even make fresh scones daily so if you feel like a treat, you can have a cream tea. Head Chef, Scott Fuszard and his assistant, Dan Wakefield, cook everything from fresh ingredients. We don't use any packet mixes or caterers ready-meals. We grow as much of the vegetables as we can at home in Malvern and buy the rest locally. We use Lamings of Bromyard for our bread and support other local businesses where we can.

We are in the AA Pub Guide 2009 and we are being included again in the 2010 edition. We have Cask Marque accreditation for our Cask Ales: an independent assessor comes unannounced and tests the beers for temperature, taste and appearance. We received approval on his first visit!

In order to win the prestigious title of Marstons Community Pub of the year 2008 we were visited by "mystery shoppers" on three occasions. They assessed the food, beer, wine, general cleanliness, the service and the welcome they received. The first visit by the inspectors was when I wasn't at the pub and I was so pleased that the staff had come up to Marstons exacting standards that I entered them for The Publican's Proud of Your People Award sponsored by Fairy and they won that too!

The pub was also judged on its contribution to the community by John Longden, the Director of Pub is the Hub. We were disappointed by comments made the judges of last year's Village of the Year award and

would like to give an idea of what we do for the community: provide meals for local day centre at cost price; our chef trains children from The Chantry High School as part of their NVQ in Catering; we raise money for the Air Ambulance by "recycling" books and in our first year we raised £2439; we raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support by holding annual coffee mornings; we raise money for Martley Spurs F.C. by holding fund-raising events like a car boot sale and race night; we give chips to local sports teams after their games; we allow the free use of the barn for meetings for local groups; we allow free use of our car park for people using the other shops in the village; we have recycling facilities on the car park for bottles and paper; we have a gallery exhibiting artwork by local artists of the highest standard.

So do come and give us a try; we are open all day everyday.

Caroline Cassell



Martley Web Mesh Update

Broadband arrives in Shelsley Beauchamp!

Martley Web Mesh (MWM) has secured funding from Nexus, enabling them to reach out to neighbouring areas and has now reached the Shelsleys, starting from its base in and around central Martley.

MWM operates a wireless broadband system. It is a community-based project and a 'not for profit' company

limited by guarantee (Company Number 5451060). Operating for several years, now (January 09) it has approaching 40 members with even more connected computers. Free-access computers are available in the Library Link and MWM is currently getting Martley Memorial Village Hall online! There are many “self-help” internet access projects operating all over the world, as well as this country, serving regions with poor or non-existent broadband access. Even though we are in a “developed” country, our area, like many, has an aging telephone “landline” infrastructure and no access to fibre-optic cable services, which limits people’s choice of commercially-provided broadband internet access. MWM is operated by very experienced wireless and IT engineers, who install, commission and maintain the network.

If you are keen to be connected, or wish to find out more, please don’t hesitate to contact any of the following, (all on 01886): John 888460; Richard 821237; Tom 888256; John 888318. They will only be too willing to answer your questions.

***Thank You
from Ted & Wendy***

Ted and Wendy Davis would like to thank everyone for the many cards, letters and messages of support during Ted’s recent illness. They have been very much appreciated.



**Teme Valley Views from the Teme
Valley Children’s Centre**

Get involved in the management of the Children’s Centre. Voluntary Management Committees are the backbone of many organisations in the area and the Teme Valley Children’s Centre (TVCC) is no exception. Although the day-to-day running of the Centre is down to Hilary Higton, the Centre Coordinator, behind the scenes decisions about staffing, strategy, finance and reporting are made by a team of volunteers.

The majority of the current team of Trustees live in the Teme Valley, come from various walks of life and have a wide range of experience and skills that allow them to contribute actively to the running of the TVCC. Meeting every 2–3 months they receive an update of services provided by Hilary before discussing any relevant issues. Most recently, the group worked together to generate a successful tender document resulting in Worcester County Council granting the Committee a contract to run the TVCC for a further three years. Since the beginning, the group has recognised the importance of having representatives from across the ever-increasing geographical area on the committee. Consequently, now that the TVCC covers the additional areas of Hallow, Holt, Lower Broadheath and Astley, new Trustees are being recruited. We also require

representatives from the Suckley/Leigh Sinton and Bayton/Clows Top areas. If you are enthusiastic and have experience in management, business, health, education or parenting we would love to hear from. For more information about how you could contribute to the management of the TVCC please contact the office on the telephone number shown below.

Date for your diary

The next Nearly New Sale of clothes for babies and children up to the age of 11, maternity clothes, baby equipment and toys will take place on Saturday 28 March at Great Witley Village Hall, 11am – 1pm. To register as a seller, volunteer to help on the day, or just for more information, please contact the TVCC on 01886 812982.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Natalie Sherwin, who announced her engagement to Kristopher Wilkes on Christmas Day.

Post Office Notice

Due to both Clifton and Upper Sapey Post Offices going to an outreach service (this mean reduced hours), I expect Martley Post Office trade to increase, so I am therefore asking people who do not need the services of either the Post Office or the shop to park elsewhere. Your co-operation would be appreciated. Thank you.

Mary

Martley & District Horticultural Society

At the January meeting, Chairman Mike Dunnett had brought some sprays of lovely winter flowering shrubs; he gave advice on their cultivation, also gave tips on February jobs—forcing rhubarb and dealing early with hosta-gobbling slugs!

Douglas Whitaker then gave a fascinating talk entitled '40 years behind the microphone' - his working life as a sound engineer for the BBC. He began in 'two channel' times at the Corporation's original HQ at Woodmanton, Evesham (previously owned by the Duke D'Orleans). He showed slides and mentioned various programmes. Compact was his first job, and The Forsyte Saga was another—when Kenneth Moore provided a party at Christmas. No women in the 'workings' of the BBC then, and the men all wore collars and ties! Douglas did many outside broadcasts - even Wimbledon. He got to know Percy Thrower (live shows at Clack's Farm), he covered the Chelsea and Shrewsbury Flower Shows, was involved with Little lord Fauntleroy at Eastnor Castle (later scrapped by the BBC); By the Sword Divided at Rockingham Castle (being senior sound man) and many others including ladies mud wrestling! He went to Jamaica, the USSR (he managed to enjoy a dry martini on a Russian troop-carrying plane!), No. 10 Downing Street – he met most of the Prime Ministers - Royal Weddings and funerals, usually stuck in a control

room with hundreds of cables Douglas also worked on The Sky at Night with Patrick Moore and gave some wonderful descriptions here (especially of Mr Moore's attire!) Although he visited islands, countries and continents, he will always remember the fields of sprouts by Woodmanton! Such an interesting and educational talk.

On 26 March Duncan Straw talks on 'Perennials for Awkward Places'; the Spring Show is on 28 March. On Wednesday 22 April a Three Way Quiz at Hartlebury. Ideas for garden visits, talks etc would be most welcome, and we do need more members! Lastly it is planned to have a Flower Festival at St Peter's church, the weekend of August Bank Holiday – 100 years since the Church Restoration in 1909.

Tina Steele

***Thank You
from Bill and Mike***

Brian Wickens, who was 70 on 30 January, and Mike Nott who was 60 on 5 February, celebrated their birthdays together at Sapey Golf Club. Over £800 was raised in aid of the County Air Ambulance when the friends asked for donations instead of presents. Brian and Mike would like to thank everyone so much for giving so generously.

Martley Ramblers
**Sunday 8 March 2pm Church
carpark**
In view of the continual rain and

waterlogged and muddy countryside, the leaders for this month have changed the venue slightly from "Canals". It could now be entitled Woods and Worcester Only Slightly Known, (some different aspects of the City). To avoid misrepresentation under the Trades Description Act, there will be a small amount of canal-side walking. Cars leave the car park 2pm promptly for the start at Worcester Countryside Centre. Gill Gough led us on a very pleasant walk around some parts of Worcester in January. Thank you Gill. We shall not be covering the same ground.

Kate King



Martley WI

**Wednesday 11 March
7.30pm Heaton House**

Intriguingly, the title of this month's talk by Janice Waldron is "Pearls". Will this be "pearls of wisdom" or pearls as used in jewellery? A clue may lie in the competition for "A brooch". Come along and find out. Congratulations to Marion Cumella on being elected to the Worcestershire Federation Executive. Now that we have three members serving at high level, we shall have to mind our "Ps and Qs". We have been asked to help with stewarding at the Three Counties Show at Malvern in June, so put the dates in your diaries and think about it. Your correspondent has helped at

previous shows at both Malvern and the Royal Show at Stoneleigh. It was hard work but good fun with good company. Come on, give it a try.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

The on-going story of Lane folk

The Big Garden Bird Watch has come and gone again for another year. How do the visiting garden birds know about it and absent themselves? In spite of trying the count at various times, numbers were well down on the daily numbers guzzling at the feeders, similar to last year.



Agreed the usual sparrowhawk was diving for its bluetit meal, but it does not usually cause too

much disruption. Oh well, there will be another count next year.

Please continue to be wary and report strange vehicles in suspicious or doubtful circumstances. In recent burglaries at Abberley and Shelsley Beauchamp, jewellery, mobile phones and other valuables were stolen.

Kate King

Martley Parish Council

Record of the general meeting of the Martley Parish Council held on Monday 5 January 2009 at the Memorial Hall

No members of the public were present. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 December, 2008:

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

Progress reports:

The Clerk confirmed that: a reply from Lee Robson, Head of Community and Economic Development at MHDC (Malvern Hills District Council) is still awaited from the 13 November 2008. Lower Broadheath Parish Council have thanked the Parish Council for their support regarding the construction of the Worcester Ring Road. During the last month the Clerk has contacted Worcester County Council (WCC) and Severn Trent with regard to two possible sewage leaks, one by The Crown and one at Prickley Green. Both WCC and MHDC have been informed of the fly tipping on the lay-by on the bend by Ham Bridge on the B4202 (plastic and polystyrene). Councillors confirmed that the waste was still there. The Clerk will chase them up. Duncan Rudge from MHDC has asked Vicky Bilton (Area Planning Officer for the Northern part of the District) and Peter Newman (Rural Housing Enabler) to contact Martley Parish Council to arrange a meeting with Councillors to discuss future development in Martley. Duncan Rudge had written to ask the Parish Council if there were any sites in Martley that they would like included in the MHDC Development Quality Tour, where MHDC committee visits sites to look at works undertaken, consider previous plans and decide if, in hindsight, they would have done anything differently.

Martley was not successful in its bid for funding from WCC for the works needed on the footpath by The Crown. Risk assessment will be deferred to the next meeting. Smart water signs have been made available for the approaches to Martley. The Clerk is to submit the form requesting authorisation to erect the signs.

Highways standard of workmanship: discussion was held about meeting between Councillors Mr. D. Cropp, Mrs. D. Goodyear and Mr. T. Gale and John Wallace. They visited a few sites but felt they needed to visit more. The Clerk is to find out when John Wallace is available and will inform Councillors so all have the opportunity to attend the next meeting.

Pre-School: nothing to report as Councillor Mr. N. Hall was unable to attend the meeting.

Landowners support–Ditch clearance: Councillor Mr. T. Gale will collate a list of ditches needing urgent attention. Councillor Gale will use the marked maps prepared recently for MHDC showing areas prone to flooding. The Clerk/Chairman to send maps to Councillor Mr. T. Gale.

Laugherne Brook: Councillor Mr. D. Cropp had inspected the current position at Laugherne Brook and reported his concerns. The Path-or-Nones will clear the stream of trees at Laugherne Brook on the 17 January 2009. Councillors need to identify other parts of the stream that could be potential flooding risks. This can be done from the maps marked for ditch clearance. The Clerk is to add this item

to the agenda for the next meeting.

District and County Councillor's report: Councillor. Mrs. B. Williams had nothing to report and County Councillor Mr. A. Davies was on holiday.

Planning:

New: No new applications received.

Pending: 08/01169/FUL Treetops,

Hillside – Replacement of dwelling.

Permitted: 08/01615/FUL Hawkenest

Barn Farm – Equestrian manege.

Withdrawn: 08/01544/LBC &

08/01543/FUL – Old Barn, Hillside –

Garden room extn.

Councillor Training 2009:

Councillor Mr. D. Cropp advised that Worcestershire CALC will soon be offering a course lasting 3-4 days to update Parish Councils about current legislation. This will be of benefit to all but especially the new Councillors. The courses will be held with other local Parish Councils, which will also be a valuable opportunity to network.

Risk Assessment:

The Clerk asked that this item be deferred until the next Parish Council meeting.

Finance:

There were 7 cheques totalling £2,386.73, 5 for agreement and signature. It was resolved to adopt the accounts. A precept of £18,000.00 was agreed. The Clerk will submit this to MHDC. The Clerk will add Donations to the agenda for the next meeting. The SLCC membership was agreed and authorised. Electricity quarterly payment was agreed and authorised.

Correspondence:

Items for discussion: Councillor Hall – Resignation; WCC – Budget information meeting invitation; John Hicks – Play area inspection; Councillor Forrest – Evening transport grant; MHCPMG–Public meeting invitation. Items for information: included-MHDC–Revocation of tree preservation orders; Com. & Local Gov.–Consultation on local authority publicity; Green Leaf–Funding for reduction in plastic bags.

Councillors reports and items for future agendas:

The Clerk is to write to WCC and Severn Trent regarding a water leak which resulted in a big patch of ice and a blocked drain on Hopehouse Lane. Councillor Mrs. D. Goodyear advised that there are six Smart water packs remaining, at a cost of £20.00. If anybody would like one please contact her. The Clerk is to write to WCC and Severn Trent regarding the running sewage at 3 Hollins Lane. The Clerk is to write again to WCC regarding the water running across Prickley Green.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday 2 February 2009.

Martley's Past

Parish Council, 17.6.1968. Min 7. The clerk has written to the County Council asking its advice on the ownership of Kingswood Lane. The reply stated that according to the CC's records Kingswood Lane is an un-adopted road and as far as the County Surveyor can trace, the CC has not in

the past carried out any repairs on this road. The members, however, were not satisfied with the reply and Mr E Taylor stated that there were no tithe marks from Martley to the S-bend, but from the S-bend to Kingswood there were. He also complained that due to the condition of the road dust carts did not collect refuse regularly. The clerk was instructed to write a further letter asking for confirmation that maintenance of this road is the responsibility of the owners of the land on either side of the lane.

Next Meeting 23.9.1968. Min 6. A letter was received from the clerk of the County Council, Mr Scurfield, confirming that maintenance of Kingswood Lane, except for the section from Berrow Green Road to the S-bend, was the responsibility of the owners of the land on either side of the lane. A public footpath runs over, along and within that section of the lane and its continuation eastwards and the County Council is responsible for this section up to public footpath status only.

(Minute in June meeting–A complaint was received about the old cottage in Jury Lane which has been empty for some years. It was reported that the door is left open and the children from the village play in it. This is a nuisance to Miss Rowley who lives in the house opposite and the clerk was instructed to report the matter to the District Council. (The January meeting next year reported that the door had been locked!!))

A L Boon

Mobile Library

Ockeridge

Silver Oaks 9.45–10.05

Wichenford

Malvern View 10.10–10.35

Church 10.45–11.05

Kings Green Farm 11.15–11.40

Rosses Green 11.45–12.05

Martley Hillside

Horn Lane Bungalows 12.10–12.25

Martley

Taylor's of Martley 12.30–12.45

LUNCH

Heaton House 1.20–1.50

Church. 1.55–2.15

Clifton

Village Hall 2.30–3.50

The Mobile Library will be visiting these stops on Wednesdays on the dates listed below:

11 March 2009	5 August 2009
1 April 2009	26 August 2009
22 April 2009	16 Sept 2009
13 May 2009	7 Oct 2009
3 June 2009	28 October 2009
24 June 2009	18 Nov 2009
15 July 2009	9 Dec 2009
	30 Dec 2009

Any enquiries should be made to Stourport Library, Worcester Street, Stourport, Worcs DY13 8EH, tel: 01299-822866, stourportmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk

Martley and District Horticultural Society

Spring Show

Saturday 28 March 2pm

**Spring plants
cakes and preserves for sale
children's
exhibitions and, of
course, our own.**



**Entry forms from
Martley Post Office
and Central Stores.**

Easter Lilies

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of lilies in church at Easter, in memory of a loved one, donations may be given to Jenny Underhill or Catrine Ball, or left at Central Stores, Martley.

Jenny Underhill (01886) 888306

Catrine Ball (01584) 881079





Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



Church Flowers

No flowers throughout March – Lent

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship members are to meet on Tuesday 17 March at 2.30pm.

Wichenford Church AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Wichenford Church is on Monday 23 March in the church starting at 7.30pm..This meeting is open to all.

Thank you to Bill and Jo

The Villager would like to send a BIG thank you to Bill and Jo Root for their very valuable contributions to The Villager. Bill and Jo have headed the distribution team in Wichenford for many years and are now handing over to Karen Furber. There are many people involved with The Villager, most of whom carry on from month to month, reliably working “behind the scenes”, anonymously. Making sure The Villager arrives at your door each month involves more than you might

think, so, Bill and Jo – THANK YOU – enjoy your well-earned rest!

The Villager would like to offer Karen a warm welcome to the team.

Michelle Higgins, Editor

Retirement

As I was writing my notes for The Villager, the February issues were delivered and with them a note to say that Bill and Jo Root were retiring from the job of circulating The Villager, after many years of delivering the piles of magazines to us, who then delivered them in our locality. They had to put in the, sometimes many, fliers and then cover the whole Parish with the bundles. There was never a hitch whatever the weather, even planning their holidays around the end of the month, delivery time. It was purely voluntary, at their own cost, as is so much work that is done in our village. So a very big thank you, Bill and Jo, we are all very grateful to you. We are extremely lucky to welcome Karen Furber, who has volunteered to take on the main distribution around the Parish. Thank

you Karen and well done Jo and Bill.
Enjoy your well-earned retirement.

Pam Webb

Wichenford 100 Club

January winners No 017 Brad Wood £75 and returned subscriptions to 136 L Watson and 126 Mr Sanders. Drawn by Shirley Sanders.

Please believe us! This was not rigged! I caught Shirley as she was putting up notices on the Village Board and asked her to draw three balls. No 17 came out by itself and then the next two came together. The routine is to write the numbers down in order and then refer to the Big Orange Book to see whose name is against the number. Imagine our surprise (shock?) to find she had pulled out her father-in-law's number! There is, it seems, no end to the coincidences to do with these draws. Is there a scientific explanation?

A Date for Your Diary

The Wichenford Blues Festival 2009 is moving four miles down the road to The Fold at Bransford and will be on 4 July. Hope to see you there!

Oliver

Wichenford Memorial Hall

I write on behalf of the Management Committee to thank Mike and Judith O'Leary very much indeed for their support and expertise when they produced and chaired an excellent Quiz Night. A buffet supper was provided and around £390 was raised for our Restoration Fund. Each set of

questions had a theme that made the quiz more exciting, and every table of four chose their own title for the evening. We had a super evening with everyone enjoying themselves and we very much look forward to the next quiz night. Mike and Judith, thank you very much once again.

The Annual General Meeting is on 16 March at 7.30pm Please come and support your hall.

Silent Auction Postponed

The Silent Auction has been postponed. Please don't contact Margaret Fisher about it because there is not another meeting of the organising committee planned until later in March, so she doesn't know anything either!

Margaret H Fisher Secretary

Evelyn Shachell

We are so sorry that Evelyn has died and send our deepest sympathy to her family. Evelyn was born in 1920 at Northwick, Worcester. In 1940 she married Don and moved to Bolton where they had two sons. When they retired they came to Wichenford where they lived for 25 years.

Evelyn loved her garden where she spent many happy hours; she was a great reader and enjoyed listening to the radio. She will be sadly missed.

Not Simply a Number – Part 2

To continue with the story of some of Martley's Shire horses, the offspring of John Davis's mare Bounce and the stallion King of The Vale, was a roan named Queen of The Vale and her descendants were given "Martley" as a prefix. The other mare, Flower, also produced a daughter and so the line went on—British Queen, Flower, Princess II, Countess, Lady, Baroness, Belle, Victress, Forest Lady, Forest Princess, Empress, Lady Elizabeth, Vicountess, Beauty, Duchess, Elegance and lastly Stylish Lass (born in 1926)—not to mention the 'boys'.

To go back to A1 (1) (the stallion list begins with six A1's!) this particular horse was bred by R Watts and later sold to William Wynn. It was grey and foaled in 1864, its sire being Great Britain 970 (vol 1) and dam Darling who was by Mr Gunthorpe's Brown Stout (no number). Great Britain was owned by T Coles (bought from breeder Mr Hart) and foaled in 1854, colour grey – sire Mr Bense's Swindon, dam's name missing but she was known to be by Mr Archer's Lion, said to be a grandson of Mr Breakspeare's Dumpling, but there again we can go back no further.

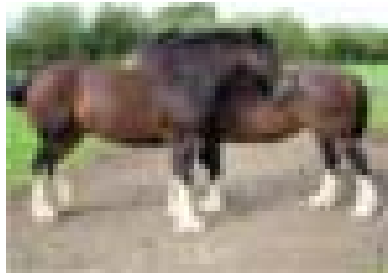
There were of course other owners

and breeders in Martley and the neighbouring parishes. J A Davies (a life member elected 1905) of Bransford Court kept Shires at The Lingens Farm in Barbers Lane. Just imagine his stallions being led out from the yard there to walk their pre-arranged routes around the district and to be introduced to their 'ladies', sometimes being put up at a distant inn, and to drink at the lane-side pond on their return. Exton Conqueror, Dunchurch Forester, Long Lawford Chancellor, Beaumont Tartar, Orfold Friar (shown at the London Show in 1938 with a new owner) ... what a sight. D'Arcy Star (bought from an MP in Wales) had won top prizes in the show ring—no doubt she was a 'good worker in all gears', pulling the

wagons kept in the cart shed opposite the farm. Cyril M Woodyatt had the short-lived Hipplecote Stud (also known as the Horsham) in the early 1920's. W Betteridge bred a filly foal in 1917, his address is given as Lower Hollins Farm.

Horace and Reginald Pullen kept a retired Shire at Martley Court in the late 1950's, it was last used to take cart loads of manure to the hopyards.

To be concluded next month when we move out of Martley and visit East Anglia.
Tina Steele



Shire horses

Your Credit Union

A Community Solution to Personal Financial Issues



Debt comes in all sorts of forms, like negative equity or over-spending on credit cards, but in Worcestershire it is estimated that 35%¹ of families are in debt through low income—a problem that applies equally to rural and urban areas. With around 11%² of households not having a bank account and 17%³ officially living below the poverty line, access to financial institutions is limited for people in difficult circumstances. So who can they turn to for a small, short-term loan? Doorstep lenders, loan sharks and the local credit union.

Reputable doorstep lenders advertise their lending rates at around 187% APR, and loan sharks charge all sorts of outrageous rates of interest while Black Pear Savings & Loans, a not-for-profit organisation widely supported by Councils and Housing Associations across County, charges 12.7% (or in exceptional high-risk circumstances 25.4% APR).

So what is Black Pear Savings & Loans?

As part of the worldwide credit union movement, where communities come together to save and borrow money at affordable rates, Black Pear is owned and run for the benefit of its members, (now over 2000 people). It offers members somewhere to make secure, ethical savings, which are then used to fund loans to other members, keeping money within the local economy. Protected by the FSA's Financial

Compensation Scheme (unlike many savings and Christmas schemes) savings are completely secure, and members get free life assurance. Any profit made is returned to members as an annual dividend. For borrowers, Black Pear loans are almost all made at 12.7% (1% a month) for loans as small as £50, with no early redemption fee or hidden charges, and the interest paid goes back into developing services for the organisation.

Black Pear also offers a free DebtBuster service for people whose debt is mounting, lenders may be giving a hard time to and who feel they are in a spiral of debt they can't escape. Recent months have brought record numbers of new members, both those who are looking for an ethical saving option that helps the local community, and those looking for excellent value loans. With branches in Worcester and MoneyPoints across the county, the credit union is increasing its accessibility. As an almost-entirely volunteer organisation from the Board to the cashiers, the credit union is also always looking for people able to offer time and expertise. To contact Black Pear Savings & Loans—The Worcestershire Credit Union—call 01905-612197 or drop into our branch at 15 Lowesmoor, Worcester.

¹ 2007 figures www.worcestershire.gov.uk

² www.poverty.org.uk

³ www.nationmaster.com

In the Garden



In the Garden in March

21 March is the official start of spring; the soil starts to warm up and the weeds start to grow. However there is no guarantee that winter conditions are behind us - remember the late snows? Be prepared to protect any precious early-flowering plants, especially fruit blossom.

In the flower garden, pick off fading flowers on daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs, but leave the foliage to build up the bulb for next year. Sow hardy annuals directly into the garden where you want them to flower; choose a sunny spot and don't forget to mark it! Good do-ers include Love-in-a-Mist, cornflowers, nasturtiums, poppies, sunflowers and sweet peas. Perhaps we should all consider planting at least one native British flower this year. As well as enjoying them for the flower display we will be providing food and habitats for our native insects. Some to consider for shady spots are bugle, wood anemone, lily of the valley, sweet violet, primroses and cowslips, while in sunnier areas columbine, scabious, mallow and wild thyme will do well. Modern cultivars of these plants will work equally well if you



keep to the single-flowered varieties.

Prune shrub and bush roses, buddleia and summer-flowering clematis now if you didn't get round to it in the autumn, also prune dogwood and coloured willows to encourage new growth which will give the coloured stems next winter.

At the end of the month, summer-flowering bulbs should be available in garden centres. Anemones and lilies can make stunning displays in pots, with the added advantage that you can deal more easily with any pests. New spring growth will bring out the slugs and snails so be prepared with your favourite control method.

Try to start mowing the lawn now, with the blades set high, as this will produce denser growth, which means fewer weeds and a better end result.

Those of us who grow vegetables need to get into gear this month. Early potatoes planted in the open now should crop in July. If you can, plant a few in containers in a warm spot for an earlier treat. Onion sets can be planted, also lettuce, peas and beetroot. You can still sow seeds of cauliflower, tomatoes, peppers and aubergines in your greenhouse, but if you only want a few plants and are not too concerned about the variety: it is easier to buy young plants from a garden centre, or, for best value for money, visit Martley Horticultural Society Spring Show, Saturday 28 March in the village Hall.

JC



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Isn't it good when a plan comes together? So the saying goes! Have you made any plans this year, perhaps a wedding or a holiday? The church year is a plan we work with from Advent to Trinity. It covers the different aspects of our faith and the life of Christ. The year begins at the end of November with Advent, the coming of Christ, and follows with Christmas, his incarnation; Epiphany, the revelation of the divinity of Christ; Lent, a life of devotion and disciple life; Easter the Resurrection; Ascension, his ascent back to heaven; then Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit and Trinity, One God but three persons, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

March finds us in the season of Lent, a time of devotion, reflection and discipline. A discipline that is led by our devotion to the God we love. It may be to many, a time of giving something up, rather let think of taking something up and set our minds upon its completion with the help of God.

Jesus going through the desert and fasting for forty days and nights was part of God's plan. It is good for us to ponder the plans of God for they guide us in our own lives. It is good to know that God has our times in his hands, 'My times are in your hands;' (Psalm

31:14-16). He is with us in our happiness and our sadness, with us always (Matthew 28:20). As you journey through Lent, may God go with you, always and all ways.

God Bless.

Rev David Sherwin

Changes to the structure of the church in our area

From 1 January this year the Benefice of churches called Martley, Wichenford and the Lower Teme Valley became linked with the Benefice of Leigh, Alfrick, Suckley and Bransford and also the Benefice of Clifton and the Shelsleys and Lower Sapey. The team is now called the Worcestershire West Rural Team, of which Rev David Sherwin is now Team Rector, Rev Andrew Bullock (of Leigh) is Team Vicar assisted by House For Duty Assistant Priest, Rev John Sumner (of Clifton). We also still have the help of Rev Jennifer Whittaker as Assistant Priest and Rev Bruce Thomson as Curate, ably assisted across the area by some very committed readers and lay folk. The new team is only in its infancy and there are many issues yet to be worked out, but together we will continue to enable the church to function and minister across this area in the year to come.

This month The Villager has chosen to print a report from our Link Missionaries in place of the listing of church services. Their story is a sobering one, yet full of hope.

Please refer to the Village Contacts list on the next page for details of who to contact concerning church matters.

News from Sudan

**From David and Heather Sharland,
Benfice Link Missionaries**

Sudan is desperately trying to scramble out of the huge hole of 45 years of civil war, when the Northern Arab and Muslim peoples sought to subjugate the African and Christian Southern peoples, and they in turn resisted. The peaceful way of life of both was destroyed by a long and bloody conflict that was only partially resolved by the signing of the Peace Protocols in January, 2005. The aerial bombing has ceased, but fear and suspicion remain.

For many years, Southern Sudan has seen Uganda as its friend. In its time of need, Sudan offered refuge for many Ugandans. Now, many Sudanese find a garden of peace in Uganda. But a snake lurks in the shadows! A rebel movement intent on destabilising Uganda is now active in the villages and roads of Sudan, bringing fear, death and destabilisation



to this land that is so desperate for peace. There is an old African saying that "as the elephants fight, it is the grass

that suffers". Not only are families separated and displaced from their homes, but the environmentally-friendly style of farming is also disrupted. Land degradation is a sad spin-off of this war.

Caring for Trees

In our work in Sudan, we encourage the planting and nurture of trees. Where charcoal and wood are the only energy source used for daily cooking, we seek to encourage sustainable ways of harvesting wood without destroying the environment. The planting of trees has a high priority, to hold back the desert and increase rainfall in a scorched land.

Restoration in the Kitchen

We seek to show a better way of life by incarnational living. Our home in Southern Sudan is always open, and we encourage folk to call in. Anyone who is around in the morning is welcome to join us for a short Bible reading, discussion and time of prayer for the day. At 11 am anyone who is around can share our coffee and biscuits. Lunch too usually sees 7 or 8 being fed! Our kitchen is open and many see the raised, charcoal-efficient clay stove on which everything is cooked and our water is all boiled.

Pray with us, as we return to Africa, hopefully to Sudan, but for the time being, to Northern Uganda. We fly from Exeter to Amsterdam on 17 February and then on to Entebbe, Uganda on 18th. We hope to be in Arua by 21 February. We are your co-gardeners in God's garden,

David and Heather Sharland.

Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Michelle Higgins editor@martley.org or 01886 888344 or leave articles at Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Aileen Parker.—01886 888456
Church (Worcestershire West Rural Team)	<i>Rector:</i> Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 or davidwin56@aol.com <i>Curate:</i> Revd Bruce Thomson—01886 888098 <i>Assistant Priest:</i> Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Parish Council	<i>Chair:</i> Dave Cropp—01886 888398; <i>Clerk:</i> Sally Williams—01299 832949
Martley WI	<i>President:</i> Helen CoombeyJones—01886 888294
Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Martley Young Farmers	Lou Wickens—01886-812754 or Caroline Bullock—01905-333617
Path-or-Nones	John Nicklin—01886 888318 johnn@martley.org
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Police “Surgery”	CSO Matt Smith 7184—Martley Local Policing Team Tenbury Wells Police Station extn. 3581
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org
Martley Web Mesh	Richard Jackman—01886 821237 richard@martley.org John Layton—01886888460 johnl@martley.org Tom Pearsall—01886 888256 tom@martley.org
Martley Pre-School	Kath/Lucy—01886 889127 www.martleypreschool.co.uk
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303 or Sheila Richards—01886 888378
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431

To have your organisation and its contact details appear on this list, or to change the details shown here, email editor@martley.org or leave a note for the editor at Martley Post Office.

And finally ...



As Beth Williams is sadly no longer with us, I would like to offer this piece in her memory, as this is the sort of thing she would have loved. Tina Jaray.

How old is Grandpa? One evening a boy was talking to his grandfather and asked him what he thought about the shootings in schools, the computer age, and just things in general. The grandfather replied, "Well, let me think, I was born before television, penicillin, frozen foods, photocopies, contact lenses, Frisbees and The Pill. There were no credit cards or ball-point pens. We hadn't invented air conditioning, dishwashers, tumble dryers and no-one had walked on the moon. Your grandmother and I got married, and only then lived together. Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, 'Sir'. We were before gay-rights, computer-dating, dual careers and daycare-centers. Our lives were governed by good judgment and common sense. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to take responsibility for our actions. We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent. Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins. Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends. We never heard of CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings. Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of. In my day, 'grass' was mowed, 'coke' was a drink, 'pot' was something your mother cooked in 'Aids' were helpers in the Principal's office, 'chip' meant a piece of wood, 'hardware' was found in a hardware store and 'software' wasn't even a word. And how old do you think I am?" *I bet you have this old man in mind. You are in for a shock! Are you ready? This man would be only 59.*