

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 19 No. 10

March 2010

**Editor:** Michelle Higgins (01886888344)

**Editorial Team:** *Martley* Alan Boon (01886 888527), 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](mailto: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

**Martley & Villages Carers' Group:** 1st

Monday in the month 10.30-12.30 Heaton House.

### Tuesdays

**Short Mat Bowling:** 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

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

**Martley Toddler Group:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (term time) 10.30am 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 p. 27 for details of services

See articles 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)



## ***The Crown Inn***

Yet another award!! We have been shortlist as one of 6 finalists in the Publican Tenanted Pub of the Year. The Awards dinner, at which the winner will be announced, is at The Grosvenor House, Park Lane on Wednesday 21 April 2010. Tickets are available at £258.50 per person or £2467.50 per table of ten! Thank goodness mine will be free. Now we have the pressure on us to perform perfectly all the time because they will be mystery visiting us.

*Caroline Cassell  
The Crown Inn*



## ***Transition Malvern Hills Comes to Martley***

**Tuesday 30 March 2010  
Memorial Hall - 7.30-9.30pm**

Come along to our awareness-raising evening here in Martley to learn more about the Malvern Hills Transition Towns initiative and to discuss the steps we can all take at local level to respond positively to the challenges of climate change and 'peak oil' (when demand for oil begins to outstrip

supply).

How can communities like Martley become more resilient and sustainable for a future with less dependence on oil and other fossil fuels? And how can we ensure an enhanced and more fulfilling quality of life for all into the future?

A varied participative evening is promised – a short film, brief information inputs, activities and demonstrations – and a chance for everyone to share ideas and experiences and enjoy time together.

For further information: contact John Raine on [j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk) or tel: 01684 565052.

## ***Village Hall***

### **AGM Newsflash!**

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 24 March 8pm in the hall. We have invited representatives from all the users of the facilities of the hall to come along to this meeting and it is hoped to extend the committee with some of these representatives. Please come along and let the committee know your views. If you have not been into the village hall for a while please come along and see some of the

refurbishment work carried out and look at plans of proposed changes to the hall. There will be wine and nibbles available.

### **News update**

Progress is being made on the mode of heating needed for the hall we are also looking at a heat pump system which is supported by an Eon-renewable Energy Grant Programme which may be available. Further investigations are being made into this possibility.

It is hoped to hold a number of fundraising events this year: Ascot-style Race Day in June, Table Top sale in October and a "new style Christmas Fair" in November or December. We will keep you posted.

### **Martley 100 Club**

An excellent start to the year with more than 75% of existing members rejoining however there are still a few who have not renewed this year. We have also been able to secure a few new members, so many thanks to them. It's never too late to join in so please download the form from the martley.org website if you wish or send a cheque for £18 and your address to a committee member.

January's winner is a new member, Christine Grasby, with number 51 who won £30, she has kindly agreed to purchase another number with some of her winnings - well done Chris!

*Annette Smith, Secretary*

### ***Martley Toddler Group***

Martley Toddler Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10.30am at Martley Memorial Hall

(school term time only). We are a small friendly group always looking for new members. Why not come along and you and your little one(s) can make new friends and join in the fun. We also organise trips to a local soft-play centre, and occasional visits further afield. Don't be shy if you are a father or a grandparent: all are welcome! Do please ring Will on 01886 888340 or Jane on 01886 888852 for more details.

### ***Pensax Thrift Shop***

Pensax Thrift Shop re-opens on Wednesday the 3 March at 9am. For further information please phone 01299 832388



### **Teme Valley Views from the Teme Valley Children's Centre**

Counselling service coming soon

A new counselling service is now available throughout the Malvern Hills District for parents with children aged five years and under. This service is provided by Worcestershire County Council, which means that you won't need to pay to access the service.

### **About the Counsellor**

Greg Albrecht is an accredited counsellor with the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and the United Kingdom Register of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (UKRCP). Greg can help with: stress/anxiety, divorce/separation, family and relationship

difficulties, grief and loss (bereavement), drug addiction, physical abuse/domestic violence, low self esteem/depression. Relaxation classes are also available.

If you would like to book a free private appointment with Greg please contact the Teme Valley Children's Centre on 01886 812982.

For details about the other services provided by the Teme Valley Children's Centre please check our website at <http://www.temevalley-cc.org.uk> or pick up a copy of our monthly newsletter from your local toddler group, preschool or nursery.



## ***Martley & District Horticultural Society***

### **January Meeting**

Chairman, Mike Dunnett, welcomed two new members at the January meeting. Then followed our new 'Topical Tipster', Jane Cropp, with advice (for early February) on cutting down Winter Jasmine, summer-flowering clematis; grasses (really short), and Dogwood (this achieves a brighter red). Vice-Chairman, Dave Cropp, reported that it is now easier to get into Highgrove (garden!) owing to a change of system. We heard that Nellie Bradley is making good

progress in hospital and wish her 'all the best'.

'Woody' Nelson of Bubble House Wormery was the main speaker and her talk 'Life of Worms' proved absorbing. She told us some amazing facts – Cleopatra understood and appreciated earthworms, and in the Nile Delta anyone caught removing them was given the death penalty! Charles Darwin spent thirty years studying worms. No creature has contributed more to the soil, and therefore to life, for every living thing. The big earthworms pull organic matter into the soil down their metre-deep burrows; this helps with drainage too. Gardens of new housing estates are often worm-depleted owing to removal of soil. The smaller red compost-loving ones soon double their population in the right conditions (well-run wormeries) but self-regulate if not. Wormeries produce 'worm tea', which is a very rich plant food (tomatoes love it!); worm casts ('black gold') play an essential part in soil fertilisation as they are teeming with nutrients. Woody brought a wormery kit to show us, also a container of Bokashi bran – this substance can be used to 'pickle' waste meat and dairy products. Woody explained the process which is needed for the worms to make good compost. All micro-organisms working together are what is needed. A fascinating talk!

On 24 March, Martley hopes to send a team to the quiz at Clows Top; 25 March Hilary Twigg speaks on 'Seasonal Interest' and members'

Hyacinth competition will be judged.

### **Spring Show**

**The Spring Show is Saturday 27 March** at Martley Village Hall at 2pm. In the Children's Section there will be displays of work done by the Junior School pupils: Holly Class (4-6 years) Easter Bunnies; Maple Class (6-7 years) Easter painting or collage; Willow Class (7-9 years) Easter Hats; Rowan Class (9-20 years) Easter gardens; Oak Class (10-11 years) Easter poems.

TS

### ***In Memoriam: Peter Corti***

Since leaving Martley for Ireland some years ago, I meant to write to The Villager but never got around to it. Now I have the sad task of telling everyone of the passing of my father, Peter Corti, who lived in St Peter's Drive for the past 12 years. My father was a sprightly 84 year old who was out and about until the day before a minor stroke and a serious chest infection put him in hospital where he died on 22 January 2010. My father was a lecturer at what was then Kidderminster College of Further Education then a move to Spalding in Lincolnshire, saw my parents open a bed and breakfast business. They finally retired when they were then both in their 70s and moved to Martley.

My father was a quiet, unassuming man and would likely be embarrassed to have me write about him. He was a man with many interests, joining clubs and societies, and had a wide circle of

friends and acquaintances. Long before he came to live in the area, he was Start Judge at the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb. Recently, he was involved in the local British Legion, the Probus Club in St Johns and the Midland Kite Flyers. He was a regular attendee at kite flying sessions at the Countryside Park in Spetchley. He often entered the results of his wine-making efforts in Martley Village Show, and was always pleased to get a prize. He was a regular visitor to the Kings' in Pudford Lane where he had a special relationship with Jacob the donkey, who will surely miss my father's pocket full of ginger biscuits! My father has asked to be buried in the churchyard in Martley.

I know his close family, Elsie (his wife), Louise and Helen (his daughters), David and Keith (his sons-in-law), and Laurence, Rhiannon and William (his grandchildren), will not be the only people to mourn his passing.

*Louise Cole  
(formerly of Hollins Lane, Martley)*

### ***Martley Ramblers***

**Sun. 7 March 2pm Church car park**  
Fingers crossed that the weather remains clement and no more walks have to be cancelled. Gill Gough is keeping on file her postponed walk around Severn Stoke. This month we hope to be on David's Patch, when David Wilkes will be leading around Suckley. Please note this is one week earlier than usual to avoid clashing with Mothering Sunday.

If you have not already chosen your meal for the annual dinner at Martley Crown on Friday 5 March, contact secretary Pam Bowers on 01562-66835. This is not a members only “do”, so please feel free to come and join us, as long as you book first.

*Kate King*



**Martley WI**

**Weds. 10 March 7.30pm**

**Heaton House,**

Hopefully we are now back in full swing after weather problems at the beginning of the year. This month Angela Bushaway will be instructing us about Shiatsu. My dictionary says it is a Japanese healing and health-promoting therapy, using massage with fingers and palms. It sounds very interesting and shall we be rolling around on the floor in the lounge? Come and find out.

Other diary dates are the Elgar Group meeting at Clifton-upon-Teme on Thursday 25 March and our annual dinner on Wednesday 21 April at the Granary, Collington, but there are plenty of other events planned, including craft mornings.

Some of us are off to Denman College this month for the Worcestershire Federation weekend. We shall undoubtedly bore everyone with tales of what we have done when we come back.

*Kate King*

## ***Martley Parish Council***

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of the parish council held on Monday 4 January 2010 at the Memorial Hall

### **The Democratic Period/Public Question Time**

An amendment was made to the minutes regarding the incorrect name of the charity Martley Relief in Need. A parishioner raised the issue of ice in Pudford Lane. County Cllr Davies is to discuss this issue with Highways. Several parishioners raised queries relating to the planning application for the 83 dwellings by The Crown. District Cllr Williams confirmed that an extension to the consultation date will be requested and also she will ask for the planning meeting to be held in Martley. Martley Recreation Association advised that the play area has been re-barked but two days later the lights were smashed and the back of the train was broken. Another claim could result in the rise of the cost of insurance. Thanks were given to Mr Gosling for the work he has carried out on the notice board in the centre of the village and to Councillors for the work they had undertaken on the milestone, the weighbridge and the notice board.

### **Minutes:**

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

### **Progress reports:**

The Clerk confirmed that an application for brown signs would cost £100, after which applicants purchase

the brown signs and pay for their maintenance. The council has therefore decided not to pursue signage at the current time.

**Landowners support**—ditch clearance - local contractors have recently cleared all ditches in Martley, which took three days and their work was complimented.

**Lengthsman**—Mr Wilks will continue as the lengthsman for Martley on a rolling three month contract. The Clerk will write the new contract and will contact Mr Wilks each month with a work schedule.

#### **District and County Councillors' reports:**

District Cllr Mrs. Williams reported that Martley Relief in Need charity had given 40 presents and plants to dwellings in Martley.

#### **Planning:**

##### *New*

09/01670/HOU Orchard Bungalow, Newtown – Replace existing garage/workshop and construction of additional access.

09/01604/OUT Outline application for development of land with 83 dwellings, including 33 affordable dwellings and 2 live work units. Provision of new doctors' surgery and parking (to be shared with the Crown Public House) Open space and pavilion. All matters reserved except access.

##### *Pending*

09/01209/TPA Apartment 1, Laugherne House – Reduce one lime by 30%.

09/00752/OUT Horsham Court,

Horsham – Erection of dwelling.

09/00751/FUL & 09/00750/LBC Stables at Horsham Court – Conversion to create new dwelling with new garages.

09/00749/FUL The Old Court, Horsham – Refurb. Of derelict former house with 2 storey extn. & new garage. Horsham Court went to Northern Area Development Control Committee on 02/12/2009.

Dist. Cllr Williams confirmed that the Horsham Court development has been approved. The Clerk and Cllr Coombey-Jones advised Dist. Cllr. Williams that the new planning website is not working effectively.

#### **Allocation of committee representation:**

Finance Committee—Cllrs. Goodyear, Metcalfe, Coombey-Jones, Nott

Planning Committee—All Councillors  
Salaries and Personnel Committee—Cllrs. Goodyear, Nott, Metcalfe

Old Grammar School Foundation—Cllrs Goodyear and Gale

Penny Hill Tip Liaison—Cllrs. Goodyear and Fearnough

Playing Fields Association—Cllr Gale. Further discussion to be held at the meeting with Martley Recreation Association

Memorial Hall—Cllrs. Coombey-Jones and Stammers

Heaton House—Cllr Goodyear

Environmental Officer—Cllrs. McHugh and Nott

SPORT Martley—Cllr Metcalfe

Nora Parsons Day Centre—Cllrs Goodyear and Fearnough

Martley Relief in Need—Dist. Cllr.

Williams

Church of England Primary School—the Clerk is to clarify in what capacity representation is needed, for the next meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch—Cllr Metcalfe

**Finance:**

There were three cheques totalling £771.12 approved. A Precept was agreed of £19,000 for 2010/2011.

**Correspondence:**

Items for decision/discussion—MHDC revocation of tree preservation order. Teme Tennis Academy request for funding. Telephone query regarding salt bins on Pudford Lane

**Councillors reports and items for future agenda:**

The Clerk will report the problem on Horn Lane in the dip to Prickley Green, the pothole by Brook Court, the broken pipe at the bottom end of Hollins Lane and will report the fallen bough at the bottom of Kingswood along Worcestershire Way to the Path-or-Nones. The Clerk will write to MHDC regarding the empty salt bins and to Highways expressing a concern for the elderly who live on the estate as Highways did not grit the estate and the roads were particularly dangerous during the icy weather in January. The Clerk is to advertise the final vacancy for a Councillor.

**Next meeting:**

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month.

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

Parish Council Meeting 31 January 1952.

**Other Business – Water Scheme**

Mr Badger (Martley's representative on the Rural District Council) was invited to speak to the meeting on the question of the proposed Water Scheme for the Rural District, and expressed the view that he did not consider that the scheme was desirable or necessary.

Mr Heaton thought that the scheme was of too great a magnitude for what was anticipated. Mr Peet (Top Shop) was rather inclined to support the scheme, but generally it was felt that the rate-paying public had not been made sufficiently cognisant of what the scheme entailed. After considerable discussion, it was decided that Mr Badger, supported by Mr Heaton, should bring the Council's views before the Public Enquiry which was pending, and on the proposition of Mr Peet, seconded by Mrs Morgan, the following resolution was carried:

“It was resolved that this Council do submit to the Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government its sincere expression of doubt as to the wisdom of the Martley Rural District Council's Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme at the present time, in view of the size and cost of the project and the present financial and material state of the Nation.

The Council further doubts the accuracy of the estimates, since a high percentage of farmers and



householders alike already have their water supplies (electric pumps down wells! ALB), or, where they have not, might well be unable to meet the heavy cost of piping, added to the installation of the necessary equipment for the use and disposal of the water.

For these reasons further information at this stage seems essential, and it is respectfully suggested that the whole question of the scheme be considered in the light of these suppositions, so that the ratepayers who would have to bear the ultimate burden, will know more exactly what will be the cost, and what is likely to be the real benefit to the community. Mr Badger was thanked for bringing the matter before the Council.

*Alan Boon*

---

### ***The Church in and for the Community***

Every month in the Villager and Footprints, our local village magazines, there is the article from Revd. David Sherwin - Church Words. Do you read it? Perhaps you think it is only for those who regularly attend church. This is not the case: it is for everyone just as the church itself is at the heart of each village community, for everyone. The bi-monthly services at Heaton House are not only for those who live there but for anyone who would like to come and especially those who find getting to the church itself on a Sunday difficult. These gatherings highlight the fact that

‘church’ is not the building itself, important though all our churches are, with the history and heritage which they bring to our life, but it is ‘the people’ who are ‘the Body of Christ’ - those who gather to praise and worship God in Christ. Just as we value and care for these places of worship, so we value and care for all in our communities.

The Benefice of Martley, Wichenford and The Lower Teme Valley is such a wide area to cover that it’s not possible for the Clergy to be in touch with as many people as they would like. We have therefore assembled a Pastoral Care Team with members drawn from each parish. Lay Visitors – people who know you and whom you know. When it comes to visiting, they are ‘the church’.

Janet Andrews, Sheila Richards, Jean Hyslop, June Lawrence, Helen Sandison, Sue G a n d e r t o n , Ursula Baker, Maureen Kings,



*(Continued on page 24)*

---

#### **Martley Library Opening Times**

Monday 2—7 pm

Wednesday 4—6 pm

Thursday 10am -1 pm

Friday 2 - 4 pm

Saturday 10am -12 noon

01886 888396 (*opening hours only*)

---



# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews  
01886 888303  
Sheila Richards  
01886 888378



## *Church Flowers*

There are no church flowers at Wichenford until further notice as the church is not in use at the moment.

## *A Big "Thank you" from the Oldies*

A special thank you from those of us unable to get out for one reason or another in the recent wintry conditions. We are extremely grateful to kind neighbours who called or telephoned to offer their assistance with shopping or clearing paths and to all those kind thoughtful people who helped us. These include the delivery men, milkmen, postmen, even oil delivery drivers working very late to get around. All this was very much appreciated. It has restored our faith in human society, at least in Wichenford. Thank you to everyone.

*Pam Webb*

## *Wichenford 100 Club*

January winners: No 99 Mick Harris £75.00 and returned subscriptions to No. 66 D Wheatley-Mills & No. 159

Mr Satchell Drawn by Ivan Rendall.

This month's draw got delayed because a heavy cold was clouding the secretary's judgement and she kept forgetting to pounce on a visitor to make the draw. In the end, a week late, she finally asked her husband to do the honours. He drew out 99 and then "Another 99!" - except of course it wasn't! The little important dot was on the other side of the numbers and it was in fact 66. Yet another example of the amazing oddities that this draw always seems to produce. I wonder how many attempts it would take to intentionally draw these two balls consecutively.

*Heather Rendall*

## *Elsie Whitehead*

We were deeply saddened to hear that Elsie has died and send our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

Elsie was a very well-known and popular member of our community; she was a great cook and expert needlewoman. Over the years she must have made hundreds of cakes to raise money for the Day Centre, the fete and many other charities and

organisations. Elsie was always willing to help with any event in Wichenford. She will be very sadly missed.

### ***A Fisheries First in Wichenford***

Cob House Fisheries is believed to be the first fishery to have a fully disabled-accessible match pool where every one of the 30 pegs is suitable for a wheelchair user. Cob House Fisheries worked with the Environment Agency to provide over 40 pegs suitable for wheelchair users, two large training platforms and over 1000m of pathways, all as specified by a report undertaken by the BDAA in 2008.

In 2009 we obtained planning permission for a huge teaching centre, shop and café which we are now building. The whole building is fully disabled-accessible with a changing plinth in the toilets for the disabled. We would also like to be able to provide a hoist in the disabled-users toilet and a loop (hearing aid) system throughout the building and are looking for sponsorship for these two items. Since installing the platforms and pathways we are getting calls from fisheries all over the UK who now understand the importance of providing these sorts of facilities and we are always on hand if needed. Cob House will be opening its new Teaching Centre, tackle shop and cafe in spring 2010.

#### **From Alpacas to Wildlife**

We obtained planning permission last

year for fantastic developments to make our enterprise the "fishery of the future" and having recently been awarded a substantial grant from Advantage West Midlands through the Rural Development Programme, the centre is now under construction. There is Teaching Centre, tackle shop and large café, and there will also be an Olympic-standard archery range later this summer. The purpose of this site is firstly, of course, to show people what a great sport fishing can be for everyone but also secondly to educate and provide facilities where the outdoors can be studied and appreciated by all.

In the Autumn of 2009 we planted a four-acre wildflower meadow with seed donated from the Environment Agency's traditional wild flower meadows and purchased another nine acres of land taking the total site to 45 acres. This gives us plenty of room for outdoor education for visitors and schools. There will be wildlife ponds for pond dipping, chickens, pigs, alpacas, children's play area and plenty of habitats for the wildlife, not to mention the Fish Farm with its indoor hatchery, where schools already come to from all over the country

#### **Angling Academy**

Cob House is very keen to get Juniors involved in fishing and we have the Cob House Angling Academy which offers coaching, discounted tackle, free fishing days, events and more. Anyone wishing to join should contact Helen Taylor on 01886888101 or join

Cob House on Face Book and tell us what you want from your club and follow all the developments at Cob House through the Face Book site.

More information is available on our website: [www.cobhouse.org](http://www.cobhouse.org) or call Helen on 01886 888101

*Helen Taylor*

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

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1 February 2010 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

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

Cllr. Williams reported that all councils in Worcestershire had been working to enhance customer service and provide additional resilience within a number of services, in particular Regulatory Services, Internal Audit and Property Services. The Malvern Hills Partnership requested a report on rural deprivation in the district and two main issues have come out of the work so far: superficially it would appear MHD has no rural areas of deprivation. However looking deeper at access to services and issues of inequality, amongst others, it becomes clear that whilst there are no deprived rural areas there are deprived people in the rural areas and early findings show that many rural people have real problems when it comes to accessing services. Malvern Hills Partnership will now carry out a customer insight

study, to give a better understanding of how residents in rural areas really feel about living there. This will help us effectively tackle the areas of deprivation and improve living conditions and accessibility.

### **Progress Reports**

**Ditching:** the ditching has now been completed at several locations in the parish at a cost of £924. Most of this will be coming from the CC once the invoice has been received. The clerk is chasing up the progress of the broken headwalls at Venn Lane as the road still floods due to the drainage under the road. The clerk was told it will be months before any work is undertaken due the scale of the work involved.

### **Planning**

*Applications approved, refused, withdrawn.*

09/01424/REM. The Elms, Frenchlands Lane

Proposed single storey dwelling. (Approved)

09/01192/HOU. Lingens Cottage, Sledgemoor, Broadwas

Extension to existing dwelling. (Withdrawn)

09/01619/HOU-01620/LBC. The Old Coach house, Woodend Farm

Single Storey Side Extension. (Passed)

### **Finance**

The balance for the 31 December stood at £14,995.65. The clerk was asked to check if the parish council could lend money to the PCC to enable them to repair the boiler.

### **Rosses/Guises Lane**

The County Councillor was not at the meeting to give an update. The

temporary TRO runs out at the end of the month and the CC has agreed to extend it for a few months as there is no word on the final decision.

### **Correspondence**

Cllrs. Panton and Rendall took the Transport Strategy to complete. Nothing has been heard regarding the adoption of the BT box.

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

The clerk is to ask the lengthsman to clear the grips at Kings Green Cottage and Guises Lane to stop the water sitting in the road and freezing over. A silent auction is to be held on 19 March in the Memorial Hall and councillors were asked to donate unwanted items.

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

Next meeting will be 15 March 2010. Meetings were also arranged for 19 April APM and 24 May (annual meeting) 2010.

### ***Little Witley's March film***

**Little Witley's March film is On the Black Hill and will be showing on Saturday 27 March.**

The debut feature of director Andrew Grieve (Kingdom, Hornblower) the film chronicles the bittersweet marriage of a Welsh farmer and an English lady and their two sons. Based on the novel by Bruce Chatwin.

See details of the Little Witley Film Society on the Leisure page of [www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk) or phone Jean Latham on 01886 88888122 or Bob Jose on 01886 888383.



### **Silent Auction/Table Top Sale Friday 19 March 2010**

*For all those spare Christmas gifts, and those nice things you never use, this is the ideal opportunity to empty the attics and cellars!*

**In aid of The Memorial Hall, Wichenford**

**Licenced Bar      Raffle**

**Entrance £3 to include a glass of wine and nibbles**

**For items of value, donors may retain half the selling price and give the other half to the memorial hall**

*Anything nice you have no further use for will be useful*

**Contact Georgina Britten Long - 01886 888678 [Gblwichenford@aol.com](mailto:Gblwichenford@aol.com)  
Or David Hibbitt - 01886 888100 [Davidhibbitt@btinternet.com](mailto:Davidhibbitt@btinternet.com)**

## *Normandy: End of September 2009*

*Alan Boon tells the second part of his experiences in Normandy.*

I went on the last of the four Poppy Tours – just four days and 13 of us including a retired Major as leader. We went by coach, starting from the Union Jack Club (24 stories high!), next to Waterloo Station. Then by ferry to Calais, coach to Caen – our HQ. The whole tour was organised like a military expedition, and, because of the small number, we became very close. The weather was like high Summer, except for Sunday morning, which was very foggy until midday. We visited all the beaches, and all the military museums (where I was given free entry). At the Mulberry Harbour Museum, when they found I had landed there in 1944, I was

wheeled into an office to sign what they called their ‘golden book’ and was given a medal in a case from the Mayor of Arromanche!

We toured small towns and villages where various small, but important, engagements took place, and there are little memorials. We looked at, and entered, various German defences, including one where they were dressed German soldiers with a large naval gun and an AkAk gun. The door was closed, then there followed a series of very realistic (and loud) sound effects and voices, both German and English.

The Bayeux British cemetery, with 4,500 memorials was most beautifully cared for. For some reason the Major suggested that I lay the wreath and as I was wearing a baseball cap with RAMC badge. I saluted - the first time in civilian life. At the American Forces Cemetery, with 9,500 graves, the crosses were all of Italian marble – but no plants or flowers. As we were

there at 4.30pm, the ceremony of ‘Taps’ took place, which is the broadcast trumpet call that caused all the many visitors to stand still silently, and two smartly dressed Americans, young man and girl, slowly, and very reverently, lowered the very large flag, folded it neatly and drove off (at seemingly attention-still) with the folded flag held flat. An American lady I was with stood to attention with her hand across her chest.



*The British Cemetery at Bayeux*

Various strange things happened to me to make the four days special. Walking above Omaha Beach, we passed a small party of Americans. A young lady touched me on the shoulder and asked if I'd been in Normandy. "Yes", I said, "Non-combatant", pointing to the badge on my cap. She said, "I want to thank you for what you did and shake your hand". We also came across a retired Major-General on Arromanche Beach. He was leading a small party from Brittany and insisted on shaking my hand. Oh, and there was the French lady from Pegasus Bridge café who wouldn't let me pay for the four coffees I'd asked for.

However, there is one visit I cannot forget. On the foggy Sunday morning, we visited a French church cemetery where there were one or two hundred paratrooper graves. Then I saw, shrouded in mist, two RAMC graves (attached to a para-regiment), both men 20 when they died in June '44, and their army numbers both 142-----, and I was 20 then, and my number was 14274102, and I felt it could have been me, and I had a little cry.

Oh, I almost forgot, I got a grant of £500 from the Lottery to go back! So you see, what a lucky war I had!

14274102, Cpl, RAMC,  
102 Field Hospital, 69th Indian  
General Hospital, and hospital ship  
mv. Maetsyker.

*Alan Boon*

## *Harvesting the Past* *March update*

Thank you for all the support I've received from the community, and the lovely comments from people who read my updates in this magazine. After all this cold weather, I am certainly looking forward to spring, so thought I'd share with you the words of Gladys Hoskins, who came to this part of the world as a Land Girl in 1943 and has never left.

"We piled into this lorry... it was spring, and honestly we couldn't believe our eyes. It was like fairyland. All the blossom was out. We hadn't a clue where we were. There was no signposts, you see.... Our first job was tying hops. Never even seen hops before. At the end of that day we had muscles we didn't know we'd got!"

March was the start of a busy year for the hop growers, as Dinty Moore recalls.

"The stringing was done on stilts... and when the hops came up to about a couple or three feet, they were tied and that's when we used to get the people from the Black Country. They came year after year and they were great characters. They were so good and honest. I have a great admiration for that time they were born."

Tickets for the play 'Back Across the Fields' based on the oral history interviews recorded for Harvesting the Past are now on sale at the Chantry School Office (open 9am to 3pm). Adults £5, Concessions £4. Dates: Wed 28th April to Sat 1 May.

*Julia Letts*

## A Short Trek in Nepal

*Helen Sandison concludes her recount of a fascinating, if energetic, holiday in Nepal last year.*

Day 6, another 5.30am start. A flight to Jomsom where our trek began. We walked up beside a wide river valley to Kagbeni, where a stream running through the village turned a wheel grinding the buckwheat to make flour for the Kagbeni bread for breakfast. From Kagbeni we walked uphill to Djarkot. The “motorway” was dusty, rutted and potholed, but usable by jeeps and motorcycles, surrounding us in clouds of dust. Two ponies helped us up this part of the trek (steep uphill and less oxygen made walking hard work) and we took turns to ride. The lead pony was good, the second one a little frisky, (age allowed me to ride the lead pony - dismounting was a challenge!).

The scenery was wonderful. Clear blue skies, wispy white clouds above snow-capped peaks and bright sunshine on golden autumn colours from the stubble of the crops in small terraced fields in the valley. In places farmers ploughed with a pair of yaks. Bitterly cold nights followed warm sunny days: on with the thermals! Most lodges had warm showers, solar heated, very welcome at the end of the day.

Our highest point was 3800 metres at Muktinath, a Hindu centre of pilgrimage. From Muktinath and Djarkot we headed back down the

Kali Gandakhi valley, longer walks, 15.5 and 13.5 miles the two longest, (but oxygen levels were higher). The lower, steep slopes bordering the valley floor were forested and the gentler slopes terraced and cultivated with orchards and crops of upland rice. In due course, we reached Tatopani, hot springs but no hot water in the showers! Next day by bus to Pokhara, (and luxury) then Kathmandu, Delhi and home. An unforgettable two weeks amid happy, friendly people. An excellent team of guides and sherpas led by Purna, a splendid trekking guide.

*Helen Sandison*

---

*(Continued from page 17)*

Jay Popplewell, Caroline Smith and Helen Walker are those who will call, bring a cheerful smile, lend a sympathetic ear, have a friendly chat and respond to a need where possible. Of course David, Bruce, Jennifer, Adrian and Jill, one of our Readers, still visit regularly and will always respond to a request to call, but having a larger team enables the Church in this area to reflect more effectively and more widely, the love and compassion which Jesus showed during his time on earth. Those who have attended our Tea Parties, Tea Services the Advent Soup Lunch or come to LinC, (Lunch in Company) will know that our ladies give not only of their time but also of their considerable cooking skills!! The warm welcome, the feeling of love



and genuine care at these gatherings bear witness to the inclusive nature of this ministry in our area.

Each one of us is a beloved child of God. He cares for all. We, the Churbe afraid to ask for a visit. We are there for you.

*Jennifer Whittaker, Associate Priest*  
01886 833897

## In the Garden



### In the Garden in March

Spring is on the way and the weather should be getting warmer, but your garden can still be hit by frost, so keep an eye on the weather forecasts.

This is the time for some basic soil care, which will pay dividends later on. First you need a dry day for weed clearing. Skim weeds off the surface using a hoe. Next, apply a mulch, 2 inches/5cm depth of compost or chipped bark. A mulch will trap moisture in the soil and prevent beds drying out in summer. It also forms a barrier against weeds and it can insulate the roots of vulnerable plants against late frosts. Alpine plants and spring bulbs in pots need a mulch of grit or gravel around their stems so that water drains away and does not collect around



them and cause stem rot. Finally, apply a balanced fertiliser, such as Growmore, to your plants as they come into growth.

Flower-lovers can now plant summer-flowering bulbs such as camassia, alliums, lilies and dahlias. Try putting a layer of grit in the bottom of the planting hole to improve drainage as these bulbs do not like soggy soil. Divide and re-pot perennials such as asters, day lilies and red-hot pokers while the plants are still dormant. The same applies to herbs like mint and chives. You can sow sweet peas and hardy annuals outdoors and summer bedding in a propagator. If you haven't already done so, you need to prune willow, dogwood, buddleia, hardy fuchsias and, of course, roses.

In the vegetable garden it's time to put in the first early potatoes, shallots and onion sets. You can sow broad beans, lettuce, spring onions, radishes and spinach, and indoors, tomatoes and courgettes. Towards the end of the month it should be warm enough to start off beetroot and brassicas.

### Spring gardens to visit

The season of garden-visiting is just beginning and according to one national newspaper, not one of the top 50 Spring gardens in Britain was in Worcestershire! Try Batsford Arboretum and Westonbirt in Gloucestershire, Hergest Croft Gardens in Hereordshire, Dudmaston Gardens and Hodnet Hall in Shropshire.



# News *from the* Church

The Rectory 01886 888664

## *Curate in Training ....for the London Marathon*

I am in training as a Church of England priest, working alongside Revd David Sherwin, but I have also signed up for a very different kind of training—for the London Marathon in April. St Paul used the phrase “running the race set before us” as a metaphor for the Christian life and so I believe that running on behalf of Christian Aid on 25 April is all part of my ministry.

So why am I doing this? Before becoming a curate, I worked for World Vision, an international aid and community development charity. I was responsible for projects in different parts of the world, including Zimbabwe. In 2005 I witnessed the destruction of a community by Robert Mugabe’s men. I prayed much about this but needed to do something practical. After some sleepless nights I decided to run to raise £10,000 for Christian Aid’s work in Zimbabwe. For those of you who pray for me, I am asking you to pray for strength in my legs as I train to get myself in shape for 25 April.

Please also to consider sponsoring me by visiting <http://original.justgiving.com/brucethomson> (linked from the Church page of Martley website) or by sending a cheque to Revd Bruce Thomson, Wichenford Oak, Wichenford Worcester WR6 6YY, made out to Christian Aid. To find out how Christian Aid will spend the money, please write to me or email me at [beagle67@btinternet.com](mailto:beagle67@btinternet.com) and I will send you a document with pictures of the community work that your sponsorship money will help fund.

*Revd Bruce Thomson*



*Revd Bruce Thompson and the Bishop*

## Church Services for March

Mon 1 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tue 2 March	10:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 3 March	10:15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Thu 4 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
SUN 7 MARCH	8:00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel
	10:30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
	10:30am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley
	10:30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	6:30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mon 8 March	8:30am Prayer Breakfast at Half Key
Tue 9 March	10:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 10 March	10:15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thu 11 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
SUN 14 MARCH	8:00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mothering Sun	10:30am Family W'ship for Mothering Sun, St Laurence, W'ford
	10:30am Family Holy Comm'n for Mothering Sun, St Peter, Martley
	10:30am Mothering Sun Service, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Mon 15 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tue 16 March	10:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 17 March	10:15 Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Thu 18 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
SUN 21 MARCH	8:00am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley
	9:00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge
	10:30am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	10:30am Morning Worship, St Peter Martley
	3:00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel
	4:00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence Wichenford
Mon 22 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tue 23 March	10:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 24 March	10:15am Holy Communion Heaton House
Thu 25 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
SUN 28 MARCH	11:00am Palm Sun Service with donkey at Laylocks
Palm Sun	6:30pm Holy Comm'n & Drama Pres'n, St Mary Magdalene, B'was
Mon 29 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Leonard, Cotheridge
	9:00am Broadwas Prim. Sch. Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene, B'was
	11:30am Easter Service, Nora Parsons Day Centre
	9:00pm Compline, St Peter's, Martley
Tue 30 March	10am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	2:00pm Martley Primary School Eucharist at St Peter, Martley
	9:00pm Compline, St Laurence, Wichenford
Wed 31 March	10:15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
	9:00pm Compline, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas



# 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
Martley Toddler Group	Will—01886 888340 or Jane - 01886 888852
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
Wichenford Local Heritage Group	Heather Rendall—01886 888239

To put organisation and its contact details 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 ...***

***Nora Parsons Day Centre  
are holding a fund raising  
Prize Bingo in Great Witley  
Village Hall on Friday 26  
March at 7.30pm—please  
come!***

### ***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**

Taylors 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 in 2010:

3 March	24 March	14 April
5 May	26 May	16 June
7 July	28 July	18 August
8 September	29 September	20 October
10 November	1 December	22 December

Any enquiries should be made to Stourport Library, Worcester Street, Stourport, Worcs DY13 8EH, tel: 01905 822722  
stourportmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk