

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 20 No. 10

March 2011

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

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

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

Martley Ramblers meet Church car park

3rd Sunday in the month:

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

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling: 2.00pm 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 for a complete listing of all forthcoming events (that the Diary page editor knows about)

See page 28 for contact details of organisations

Advertisers— Updating Your Contact details

Are your contact details including landline, mobile number and email addresses correct in The Villager? If not please contact Aileen Parker, advertising on 01886 888456. It is really important to keep your details up to date, and keep that business booming and those enquiries coming in !

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 Amateur Dramatics

Our recent Pantomime, Dick Whittington and the Doctor, was a big success and was enjoyed by the audiences and cast alike. Children were overheard saying “the real Dr. Who was in it!” (along with a Dalek). Tony Lewis made a great Dame (no overacting of course!)

Congratulations to all the cast young and old and to Ruth for all her hard work as writer and director, well done! A substantial donation will be made to St. Richards Hospice from the proceeds.

Martley Village Hall Bookings Manager

Welcome to Lucy,

Hello everyone., In January this year I took over the role of Bookings Manager for the Village Hall. Some readers may know me, but for those that don't, my name is Lucy Horn, and I've lived in the village for 3 years, and been in and out for over 10. I'm a primary school teacher, currently working in Kidderminster, and am really looking forward to taking and dealing with your bookings for our lovely village hall. The hall is a great location for any occasion, and has been used for

birthday parties, wedding receptions, group meetings and fayres. For all bookings, please contact me on 07723 064 394 or email lucyhorn@hotmail.com. Our rates are very reasonable, and we have a bar that can be used as well. If you'd like to check availability, please have a look at our new online calendar. http://www.keepandshare.com/calendar/show_month.php?i=1400097&lang= Whilst it's not possible to book online, you can see what sort of bookings we take and what we have available.. I hope to hear from you very soon with your bookings!

Lucy Horn

Martley Village Hall Dates for your Diary

Scalextric

A long awaited event is going to happen again - yes, Scalextric is back!

Martley Village Hall is the venue for an afternoon and evening of Scalextric racing on **Saturday 26th March**. There is 80-90ft of track with racing for all ages. Do join us if you can. Schedule of events are, 2pm until 5pm is an afternoon racing session that is open to all, then the Grand Prix from 7pm until 10pm, tickets from David or Mark and food and drink to be included. Please contact David Sherwin on 01886 888664 or Mark Wild on 01299 896071 for more information.

Read all about it, Read all about it

We're holding a BOOK SALE in Martley Village Hall on Saturday March 19. From 2pm to 4pm (teas available as well) – come along and pick up some bargain reads for yourself. If you

Book Sale



want to donate some of your own books, please bring them to the Village Hall on the morning of the sale.

Hot Fingers Jazz Night

Music and Arts in Martley with SHINDIG will be hosting a full traditional jazz evening at the Village Hall (free drink included, plus real ale and cider bar) on Sunday April 3 at 7.30p.m. Tickets are £8.00 or £7.00. for concessions. For



tickets or enquiries please contact Dave Cropp on 01886 888398. Tickets can also be purchased from the usual local outlets

Dash For Cash!!

We are trying something completely different! Have you got any odd china, glassware, or trinkets that you have really always wanted to get rid of, but were too good for bric-a-brac, and also too much of a bother to sort out? Well now's your chance; Martley Village Hall will sign up to place your items in a proper auction, and do all the leg work for you! All we ask is that we share the price achieved on a 50-50 basis of the net price that it goes for at auction. Hand your entry to any Committee Member, or bring your piece along to the Hall Committee Room to sign it in from 10.00am to 12.00 on Monday March 7 2011.

Contacts for The Village Hall

Chairman *Neil Stammers*
01886-888513.

Email neil.stammers@btinternet.com

Secretary *Annette Smith*

01886-821895 e-mail

villagehall@martley.org

Lyn Wheeler, 01886-889240,

email mortlake10@martley.org

Martley 100 Club

Great news! As many of the existing members from 2010 have now renewed their membership for 2011: for those who have not renewed we have been able to secure some additional members - many thanks for your support. Unfortunately we're still quite a long way off reaching our target of 100 members. The January 2011 winner was number 38, Pat Fowler. Congratulations Pat, you will by now have received your cheque for £40.

Village Hall Management Committee News

The committee would like to thank the Martley Horticultural Society for their very kind contribution for payment in full for new lights provided on the outside of the hall and we're very happy to say we are now all "illuminated".

NB However when the last person leaves the hall, after putting the alarm on, will need to switch them off before they exit the building.

The first meeting of the year went well with everyone being enthusiastic on the fundraising front with plans for table top sales, book sales, barn dance (4th June) and perhaps a pig racing night - watch this space for news! The committee need to raise an extra £1,000 this year to ensure progress on repairs, renovations and improvements are made so all support/donations will be very much appreciated throughout 2011. We also have a new booking secretary - Lucy Horn, see Lucy's introduction in this edition.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee please let us know, you can email villagehall@martley.org, or if you'd like to organise a fundraising event when some of the funds raised could be donated to the hall, please let us know as we can arrange extra support/manpower and negotiate rates accordingly.

Annette Smith



Martley and District Horticultural Society

Mike Dunnett began with his usual welcome and announced we have yet more new members! Also, there is to be a competition for growing the best single flower dahlia at the Annual Show and there will be a tuber as the prize; thirdly we would like some ideas from you please for speakers, garden visits and events in 2012. Mike then, out of the black bag produced samples of the following nut bushes: *Corylus avellana*, the hazelnut or cob nut; Annys compact, is as the name implies, compact and are suitable for smaller gardens; Contorta is the twisted nut; *Corylus Maxima* the filbert, there is a red variety called *Purpurea* and one with twisted shoots and red leaves called Red Majestic.

Jane and Dave Cropp's Topical Tips for this time of year: are apply slow release fertiliser round fruit trees and bushes (raspberries especially), 'Potato Weekends' at big garden centres (including Webbs) last

weekend in January (so we hope you've been!); a rare apple called Dobbin (small, sweet and elongated) is being grown by the RHS in an orchard at Headless Cross. It was down to only 20 trees, so hopefully this rare apple will be revived!

Later our main speaker, David Salt, gave a most informative talk on Bee-Keeping. These marvellous insects, which are so vital to humans, all animal life and the environment are declining in a most worrying way. There are many theories as to why and research is being carried out. The verroa mite (a big problem) arrived in the 1990's and does much of the damage. A fine mesh wire tray low in a wooden hive helps combat this parasite but there are other pests and diseases affecting bees, including mice, woodpeckers, bee lice and even blue tits (they snatch them in flight). David described in great detail how bees live, the role of the Queen, the drones (blind), the workers (always female) and he showed members various items connected with an apiary including hive parts, straw skep, beeswax candles, honey and mead, which we sampled. David explained about Royal Jelly, bee dances, their knowledge and sense of direction, and even temperament. He also said that one jar of honey equals a bee going round the world three times! He rounded off the talk by listing bees' favourite flowers, and then answered questions. A fascinating talk, positively buzzing with information!

Dates for your diary in March

22 March, 'Question Time' run by the Hartlebury Gardening Club at Cutnall Green, other clubs invited, tickets £2.50.

26 March, The Spring Show at Martley Memorial Hall, cakes and preserves stall, tea and biscuits – help needed. The usual Junior School children's' classes and we'd love to see more 'parent support'. So please come along and see.

31 March, 'Garden Birds' speaker Garth Lowe (also judging members' hyacinths).

Tina Steele

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 13 March St Peters Church car park and Friday 11 March 7.30pm The Martley Ramblers Annual Dinner, Fox Inn, Bransford.

It was quite frightening on the January walk when the air ambulance landed beside us. Luckily, it was not for a ramblers in urgent need of help but was for canoeists caught in the safety bollards at Diglis Weir. Will there be any similar excitement this month around Astley and Glasshampton? Jenny Underhill will be leading and we may pass near the secretive monastery at Glasshampton. Come and join us to find out more. A reminder that our annual dinner is on the Friday before the next walk, Friday 11 March at The Fox, Bransford. Menu can be chosen on the night, but Richard Mills on 01886-888788, would like to know numbers

beforehand to tell Mine Host how many to expect.

Kate King

Martley WI

Wednesday 9 March 7.30pm Heaton House

We have had two enjoyable meetings when our very own talented members have demonstrated crafts and helped us to do our own thing. This month David Withey will be talking about "The Lighter Side of Local Government". With all the talk of cutbacks and savings that have to be made, perhaps there is no longer a lighter side. We shall not be demonstrating against the cutbacks, so banners will be banned! This month's competition is a Favourite knitted item.. As we shall be celebrating our 90th birthday this year, we are planning events to take place during the coming months. Watch this space and please come along and join us. Visitors are always welcomed. It will not be just jam making, if at all, and there will be some surprises too!

Kate King

Pudford Lane Tweets

Spring flowers are appearing in spite of the continuing cold and icy weather. The glacier still continues to come and go but not as badly as in December. The moles have been very active and the orchard is a mass of black heaps, very good for potting seedlings. We search carefully but have not found any ancient coins to date. Just as well really, because we

do not want Time Team arriving! Due to government cutbacks DEFRA/Natural England appear to have lost interest in SSSIs but we shall continue to care for ours as before.

How do the birds know when it is the weekend of the RSPB Big Bird Count? The usual large numbers on the bird feeders are surprisingly absent. Do they hear about it on TWITTER? (Sorry!)

Kate King

Martley's Past

At a meeting of the Parish Council on Friday 22 August 1913 "Councillor Mr J Dovey spoke of the road leading from Martley Field Gate to the top of Tuckers Hill. It used to be a good footpath when the traffic was far less. Now heavy traffic had greatly increased there was no footpath and people were often in danger from motors. After discussion, Mr Dovey proposed and Mr C Howlett seconded that a letter be sent to the County Council drawing their attention to the footpaths by the side of the main roads which were originally maintained as a footpath by the County Authority in the interests of the safety of foot passengers and in view of the great increase in motor traffic—Carried unan

Also Mr C Howlett proposed and Mr J Rowley seconded 'That a letter be addressed to the County Council asking permission to publish Parish Council Notices on their board at the Weighing Machine, or to allow the

Parish Council to fix a small board on the building for that purpose.' Carried unan.

(Note: Next Meeting 23 January 1914 reported County Council agreed to the fixing of a board on the Weighbridge. It was also agreed that the County Council rates were too high and too much money was being spent on the upkeep of the roads!)

Alan Boon

Thank You

Nellie Pargeter would like to thank her family and friends for the cards, good wishes and lovely flowers she received on her 93rd Birthday. "I had a lovely day thanks to you all, and now I shall have to wait for the Queen's card". Congratulations Nellie from all The Villager Team.

Baby News

Many Congratulation to Matthew and Kate Neath who now have a beautiful baby son, Edward David, who was born on 6 January 2011. We send our heartiest congratulations to them and to his proud grandparents and great grandparents.

Congratulations to both families from all The Villager Team

Celebrations

Are you celebrating?

Births, marriages, engagements or anniversaries or just a special occasion or to say 'thanks' then share it in a future edition of The Villager. Please email editor@martley.org or contact the editor, Gail on 01886 889180

Martley Parish Council

Edited draft unapproved record of the meeting of Martley Parish Council Held on Monday 10 January at the Memorial Hall

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

No items were raised under public question time.

Outstanding actions from previous minutes:

The Police have agreed to look into the authorisation of cycle races, speeding/parking and reversing issues on Ankerdine, reinvigorating the Local Youth Forum, blocking of lane at Sheldon House-Newtown and obtaining a SMART water pack from the pavilion.

The Clerk will continue to investigate the herbicide spraying.

The Clerk will arrange for the Freedom of Martley lettering to be put on the board.

The Clerk will arrange for the up to date contact details and relevant Parish Council information to be published on the website and in The Villager

Progress Reports:

The Clerk The milestone association will arrange for the milestone now that confirmation has been given that the stone should say 7 miles

The Clerk will reply to an e-mail received from Kensington and Doddenham Parish Council requesting support for a reduction in speed proposal. The Clerk will refer to Worcester County Council's speed review. The Clerk is to write to Highways regarding a letter sent to

Parish Council's sometime ago regarding 6 tonnes of salt being made available to parishes. The Clerk did not receive this letter. The Clerk will seek to find out if the salt is still available to Martley, if so the Clerk will need to identify a site in Martley where the salt could be stored.

Lengthsman

The Lengthsman carried out no work in the village in December due to the bad weather. The work schedule was agreed for monthly submission. The list for this month reads:

Clear lay-by at Hillside (monthly)

Repair grips opposite sawmills and Pudford Lane

Clear rubbish from the hedgerows from Hillend Bridge Lane.

Vehicle Activated Signs

The Parish Council voted to purchase a 3M sign and also agreed to sign and return the agreement with Worcester County Council to share their sign with the other local parishes.

District and County Councillor's reports:

It has been reported recently that Hillend sawmills had been broken into and this had caused a fair amount of damage. Heating oil has also been stolen from Clifton recently.

District Councillor Williams was able to confirm that the government reduction in grants will mean a loss of 27% to Malvern Hills District Council over the next two years. They will continue to make savings but not to the detriment of services to customers. They will look towards more shared

services but there is likely to be cuts to employee levels.

District Councillor Williams has given a recent statement to the Malvern Gazette confirming that BT has not accepted Malvern Hills in the Race to Infinity competition regarding the optic broadband. District Councillor Williams was disappointed but Malvern Hills did come in the top 10 with the number of votes registered. It might be that we have another chance as BT have acknowledged that we are a special case in terms of being so rural and the local businesses are in need of the broadband to be much faster.

Reference was made by Councillors to the leaflet "Let's recycle more in 2011" being circulated too late as the majority of Christmas recycling dates had passed by the time the leaflet was received in early January.

It was reported that a resident of Nash Close had been involved in a violent assault. District Councillor Williams will refer this matter to the appropriate individuals as will the Clerk. The Clerk will also write to Festival Housing regarding the lift at Heaton House requiring repair for over a month.

District Councillor Williams had visited a number of elderly residents in the village over Christmas delivering boxes of chocolates.

County Councillor Davies asked for the following to be mentioned in his absence:

Worcester County Council carried out a third cut of the year on A, B and

some busy C roads. This was in direct response to a number of complaints regarding visibility at junctions across the county; un-classified roads have not been mowed. Worcester County Council are hoping to carry out maintenance works on the storm water grips in the verges this winter/early spring and unless the verges are cut back, the grips become ineffective due to the build up of flattened grass, the cut also aid in locating existing grips and gullies and assessing where drainage grips are required.

He urged parishioners and Parish Councillors to report pot holes as they appear following on from the snow.

He also urged parishioners to look at future consultations on home to school transport and bus services.

Planning

New

10/01621/LBC New House Farm, Hope House Lane – Refurbishment of former dwelling to form ancillary living accommodation.

10/01555/HOU New House Farm, Hope House Lane – Refurbishment of former dwelling to form ancillary living accommodation.

Pending

There are no pending applications for this period.

Appeal

10/01074/HOU White Cottage, Kingswood – Erection of replacement garage and store.

(10/01172/HOU White Cottage, Kingswood – Erection of extensions and swimming pool approved).

Possible planning breaches were

mentioned at:

The White House, Ankerdine

Three Acres, Willow Road

Apple Trees formerly Shelton House

The Clerk confirmed for information only that an application had been submitted regarding conifer trees on Badger Close. The Clerk will also agenda the removal of the willow tree at Badger Close for the next meeting.

Finance: The accounts for December were issued. There were 5 cheques totalling £652.47 agreed for payment. The external auditors invoice was approved. The domain name martleypc.org has been renewed for a further 5 years. The Clerk referred to previous donations made to Nora Parsons Day Centre. The Parish Council has asked for a copy of their accounts. This item will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The Parish Council has asked for a copy of the village hall accounts. This item will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The electricity charges for the Weighbridge were approved for payment.

A precept for 2011/2012 of £17800 was agreed.

Urgent decisions since the last meeting

No urgent decisions have been made since the last meeting.

Councillors reports and items for future agenda

Consideration may have to be given to local farmers clearing snow and spreading salt in the future.

Vale have taken down a cherry tree in

Hollins Lane recently, The Clerk is to find out why the tree was removed. The Clerk will also chase Highways regarding the dropped curbs in some areas at Hollins Lane.

The Clerk will contact Highways regarding:

Ankerdine at the junction with Hollins Lane going East

From New House Farm, Hope House Lane down towards the village

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th February 2011.



Skills for Life

The Skills for Life programme provides free adult learning opportunities for people wanting to develop their Literacy and Numeracy skills. Their small and welcoming classes offer adults a chance to develop their skills in familiar surroundings, build confidence, get a qualification and move on. Courses are organised in partnership with schools, children's centres, libraries, employers and community groups to ensure that classes meet the needs of both the learners and the community and classes are funded by the Learning and Skills Council. Courses are free to adults who are below Level 2, which is the equivalent of 5 Grade A* - C GCSEs. There is a range of both accredited and non-accredited programmes on offer from Entry 1 to Level 2. Learners can choose to develop their English and Math's skills in a wide

range of subjects. Teme Valley Children's Centre is working with the Skills for Life coordinator, to offer a course after Easter to parents/carers in the Teme Valley who have children under 5 (crèche facilities will be provided). Likely subjects will be 'Introduction to Parenting' or 'Supermarket Sweep, shopping on a budget course'. These courses are for about 2 hours per week for around 10 weeks depending on learner need and the course objectives and are led by qualified and enthusiastic tutors. Adults join our classes for a wide range of reasons; some learners want to work on their spelling so that they can support their children, whilst others feel that their math's skills are letting them down at work. Whatever the reasons for learning, all learners have their skills assessed and are supported to achieve their goals through individual learning plans.

If you would like to register interest for the next course please contact Teme Valley Children's Centre on 01886 812982.

What's Happening at the Cob House

Don't forget to check out the Cob House website www.cobhouse.org for all the latest information, events and activities.

Don't forget you can visit our animals, the Alpacas, Reindeer, Pigs, Ducks and Chickens at anytime completely free of charge.

Pensax Shop re-opens its doors

Pensax Thrift Shop (on the B4202 Great Witley to Clows Top road) re-opens it's doors again on Wednesday 2nd March at 9 am, why not bring those unwanted Christmas presents along to sell, have a cup of tea and a browse while your there

Pyjama Day in Support of St Richards Hospice

Friday 4th March sees PJ day, where we encourage everyone to wear their PJs to work and or at home and make a donation to St Richard's Hospice

For more information on this please see the St Richards website strichards.org.uk or telephone their offices on 01905 763 963.



Little Witley Society



CHERRY BLOSSOMS

Certificate 15

Saturday 26th March

For details of this months film including film times please contact **Jean Latham** on **01886 888122**

Note from the Editor

and it's Goodbye from Me...

So, The Villager is changing editor – I can confirm the rumours. Having been involved with The Villager since it began in 1992, though only more recently as its editor, I can certainly say I have seen some changes to it over the years. Conceived by the then Rector of Martley, Canon Bill Richards, The Villager was brought to life by his neighbour Joan Campbell Grant, a well-known name in the book-publishing world who had recently begun a rural life in Martley well away from London. Although serving two neighbouring parishes, The Villager has always aimed to be a community magazine rather than church-based, and Joan set a high standard for the content and the layout right from the start, winning awards for the publication on at least two occasions. Some of you reading this might remember The Villager back in 1992 and some of its correspondents are still providing material without fail every month! To those stalwarts, I salute you! Nowadays, most of the material for The Villager arrives via email and the hand-written items are typed by a faithful artist of the keyboard who wishes to remain anonymous, but in the early days, the husband of Joan Campbell Grant typed (on a typewriter) all the text in a long thin column and Joan cut it up and glued it (yes, dear reader, that indeed is the origin of the “cut and paste” functions on a computer) onto template pages, from whence it was driven to the workshop and printed using an offset litho process. Once again, The Villager is now created, emailed and printed electronically. And you can read it as well on the Martley website.

I shall be around for a few months yet,

though I do have plans to move away, and no doubt wondering what on earth to do with my weekends! I feel I am leaving The Villager in very capable hands as Gail Dawson from Martley joins the team as the sixth editor of The Villager, and I wish her all the best in this challenging, yet interesting role.

Michelle Higgins

Note from The Villager Team

A massive thank you Michelle from all the team. Your commitment, expertise and efforts over the last 22 years have been fantastic. We will all miss you and wish you the very best of health and happiness for the future.

A welcome message from our new editor Gail will follow in the April edition of The Villager.....



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



Wichenford 100 club

First prize number 47 Margaret Fisher, second prize to 119 V J Hylan and third prize to number 215 Clair Corbett, drawn by Ruth Harris, congratulations to our first winners of the year.

Wichenford Local Heritage Group—Change of Date

Please note that Adam Mindykowski's talk on "MedievalLandscape development" will now take place on 20th April instead of 16th March. On the 16th March we will have our annual update to report back to the Group developments and research findings since Summer 2010, including possible romano-celtic activity in Kenswick, Beating the Bounds of Hillhampton 1726, the early history of Shell and Becknor manors in Hanbury, findings in the cathedral library and the medieval Open Fields of Martley. We will also hold a brief AGM after refreshments have been served.

The Royal Wedding

Wichenford are going to be having festivities on the Millennium Green to celebrate the forthcoming Royal Wedding of William and Kate on the 29th April

2011. A Pig Roast, games, lots of fun and celebrations will take place from about 6pm. More news to follow in the April Villager

Much Appreciated Help

Remember that old saying about an abundance of fruit pre-tells a hard winter – well they got that right this year, and how! This meant that we, like many others in Wichenford, were housebound and were very thankful when the phone rang with offers of help. MANY thanks to all our friends and neighbours who shopped for groceries, cough mixture, brought the papers, collected our prescriptions from Great Witley and filled our bird feeders for us. Also thanks to a certain farmer who, in spite of all the difficulties in the milking parlour, found time to bring hay for my guinea pigs!

Many, many thanks. JR

The Good Samaritans

Gwen Burnett sends a big 'thank you' to everyone who helped her during the spell of very bad weather, and also at other times, bringing shopping, medical prescriptions, newspapers etc. I am very grateful to you all for your kindness.

Wichenford Whist

The Christmas Whist was a great success and a very happy occasion. The hall looked very festive, thanks to Derrick Jinks for decorating it so beautifully. Once again we are indebted to the Parish Council, the Hall Committee and friends for supplying such a wonderful array of prizes and making mince pies. A very happy evening was had by all and a very big 'thank you' to everyone who contributed.

Church Flowers

6 March Mrs H Pargeter
13 March Lent – no flowers
20 March Lent – no flowers
27 March Lent – no flowers

Ladies Fellowship

The next meeting of the Ladies Fellowship is on Tuesday 15 March at 2.30pm; the venue is yet to be decided

Free Logs ?????

Logs for Free? You must be joking! The logs that were left in various piles in the centre of Wichenford at the end of January were destined to be sold and the money raised was to be donated to the Nora Parsons Day Centre. Unfortunately we had a number of people, who had decided to help themselves before the intended recipients could get there and collect their logs!. We all know that mistakes can happen, but if those people who got logs for free would like to make a donation to the Nora Parsons Day Centre then that would be fantastic and very much appreciated. Thank you.

An Auctioneers Lot

Please join us for an evening with **Philip**



Serrell, Auctioneer, Author, and T.V. personality of "Bargain Hunt" and "Flog It!" Philip will give us an informative and amusing insight into the life of an Auctioneer and he will bring

some items of interest for you to have a go at valuing! Don't miss this chance of a highly entertaining evening.

The venue for this will be Wichenford Memorial Hall on the 24 March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 which will include a first drink and nibbles. A bar will be available during the evening serving wine beer and soft drinks.

Tickets are available from Willie Banks 01886 888224, Paula Cox 01886 888123, Georgina Britten Long 01886 888678 or Shirley Sanders 01886 888302

Wichenford Open Gardens

Can we just say many thanks to the kind garden owners who have offered their gardens for the Open Gardens Weekend on June 25th and 26th. It looks as though we will have over 20 gardens available for our visitors to see - the highest number ever! Our new website www.wichenfordopengardens.com is up and running and is linked to opengardens.co.uk (the national open gardens site) and informationbritain.co.uk, both sites already providing us with useful leads (and a couple of direct party bookings) We are still looking for volunteers to help us in various capacities over the weekend and would be pleased to hear from anyone with a couple of hours or more to spare.. Please contact Alan Green 01886 888158, Sheila Richards 01886 888378 or Mary Hylan 01886 888431

Litter Pick

The Wichenford Parish Council are putting together a working party on 26 March between 10am and 12noon to undertake a litter pick in the village. All equipment including gloves; jackets; pickers and bags will be provided. If you are interested and would like to join us please turn up at the Memorial Hall from 10am onwards. Drinks will be available.

Shirley Sanders

NOTICE OF SKIP AT WICHENFORD.

There will be a skip available for the residents of the parish from Friday 25 March to Sunday 27 March. It will be located on the lay-by opposite the Nora Parsons Day Centre. Parishioners are reminded that the skip is for general household waste only. OILS, GREASES, CAR BATTERIES, FRIDGES, FREEZERS, TELEVISIONS, GAS CYLINDERS, PAINTS, ASBESTOS, MONITORS AND CHEMICALS OF ANY KIND are not permitted and can be taken to the County Council disposal/recycling site at Hallow.

Please do not leave items on the ground

Shirley Sanders

Wichenford Nursing Association

The WNA have in mind those people in the parish who have been ill, suffered a bereavement or are just lonely or having a bad time. We distribute some 40 gifts around the parish and hope to bring a ray of sunshine on a very cold wintery day, and let them know they are in our thoughts. We have various items at our disposal which may be of use to someone in the neighbourhood to borrow for as long as needed. If so, can you please ring

Andy Bywater at the Surgery, or Helen Wooley the district nurse at the surgery, or Georgina Britten Long on (01886)888678. The items we have are, A riser/recliner arm chair as new, a light but strong wheel chair, a push and sit chair for shopping etc, two tables which fit over beds, a sturdy chair to use in a shower, a new V shaped pillowcase and cases. We also have a Stannah stairlift with a straight run rail for a normal height staircase

Wichenfords Past

Did ever a man have so many cousins!

The Last Will & Testament of Samuel Unwynne 28 May 1650

I Samuel Unwynne of Witchenford Co of Worcester clerk I commend my soul into the hands of almighty God and my body to the earth. I give to the poor of St Johns in Bedwardine where I was born 10/, to the poor of Witchenford 6/8, to my cousin Sara Perkes 4/ which I lent her, to her sonne William Perkes £5 which he oweth me by his bond, let his bond be delivered unto him. To my cousin and godson William Brooke £5 to be set forth to his use to begin him a stock. To his brother Bryan 20/, To his sister Margerie 20/ to be employed to their use. To my cousin Edward Brokes' two younger children 20/ a piece to begin them a stock. To my cousin Richard Unwynne 20/ and to his sister Marie 20/. To my cousin Johane Butcher 20/. To my godson George Hornblow of Crowle 20/. To my sister Stone 10/ To my cousin Mary Callowe 10/ and to her four children Thomas Turner, John Turner, Winfrid Turner and Mary Fortie shillings apiece And to Winfrid I give all my bedding and household stuff and to Thomas and John Turner all my wearing apparel equally to be divided between them. To my cousin Thomas Brooke of Croome 40/. To my cousin

John Brooke of London 10/, To Ann Brooke my cousin Allane Brook's daughter 5/ and my little lock and keys. To my godsons Sam Insfone and Sam Turner, 5/ a piece. To my godson Samel Blackwell, 12d and to my godson Sam Stanton 6d. To Thomas Beck my desk which I promised him. To my godson Thomas Severne 6/8 being part of the 16/8 which his father Edmond Severne doth owe as his bond or lease will shewe. To Mr William Cliffe of Great Witley 40/ which I lent him and other money which his daughter Janet caused me to lay out for him. Whereas Mr Panting oweth me by his bill 50/ I forgive him thirty thereof if he will pay the other twenty. To my cousin Jasper Britame 10/ and to my cousin Neville Unwynne 10/ in remembrance of my love. The rest of my goods, bonds, money or debts I give to my cousin William Brooke the Elder whom I make sole Executor to see my legacies discharged and me honestly brought home.

Written with mine owne hand anno et die superadict Per me Samuel Unwinn

Proved at Worcester 29 Jan 1651 by Wm Brooke executor

Inventory exhibited £68 0 0 made by Bryan Severne, Thomas Robines and John Tovie

Note: Samuel Unwynne was appointed curate in 1635 and stayed until his death in 1650

Invasion of Alien Caterpillars

Wichenford Man Plagued by Monster Creatures

In the summer of the VII year of Elizabeth 1st (1566) there was the wonder this November of caterpillars coming out of Spain and France, as was never seen in

England before. And they did measure 2 inches of the nether end of the body and one inch at the top.

There was a man, his name is Dale, did dwell at Wichenford and said to me that there were so many upon him that he had much ado to shift them away of him. He did sit upon a stile facing the east and they did come out of the east then on an east borne wind.

He said that "They would have filled all the dung wains in my home. They were like horse flies with wings. I did see them sit and hear their cries."

From the Prattinton Archive. Worcs Record Office ref:BA 10509 [reel 1(v)]

Comment. It seems unlikely because of the time of year that these should have been real caterpillars. Could they have been locusts, blown by some Saharan wind across Europe from Africa? This might account for the odd shape and size.

HR

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th January 2011 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Councillor Williams reported that the CC has lost The Race to Infinity with BT Broadband; and the County Council budget had been reduced by 27%.

County Councillor Davies said there have been budget cuts within the District Council and they were to receive £40million less than last year. £20million in grants has also been cut. It is inevitable that there will be job losses. Again due to the extreme weather there have been lots of reported pot holes on the highways.

The Parish Council will email the County Council with the preferred location of the Vehicle activated signs.

Holt bridge works is due to start on 24th January and is scheduled to last for 10 months. It will be managed by traffic lights which will be manned 3 hours at each end of the day (peak times). It was reported that the government has £3.4 million available for tree planting which must benefit communities. The speed review carried out on the B4204 has recommended that the limit be reduced from 60mph to 50mph from Martley to Broadheath. Also the white lining at the Laughern Hill section is being investigated. Guises Lane has now been cleared and the contractors have moved onto Peters Street. Rosses Lane has not yet been started and the Clerk was asked to write to the County Council and remind them that the Parish Council are expecting a meeting with the contractor before any work commences.

Minutes

The clerk was asked to amend 10/97. The minutes were then signed as a true record.

Progress Reports

Vehicle Activated Signs.

We can loan the CC signs for a month; but the Parish Council will need to inform them where they are to be located.

The Parish Council has received the information requested from Hallow PC. The signs are quite expensive. Martley PC has purchased two and the Parish Council are going to speak to them for feedback.

Tree Trimming

The trimming of the trees at the Day Centre and on the village green is in hand and will be undertaken shortly.

Planning

Applications considered since the last meeting.

None

Applications approved, refused, withdrawn.

10/01104/HOU Boxley Farm Cottage Wichenford (Granted) Two storey side extension.

10/01169/CPU Heather Lea, Venn Lane. (Granted)

10/01142/HOU. Cob House Farm; Wichenford. (Approved)

Alterations to garage to create ancillary residential accommodation to existing dwelling.

Applications to be considered.

11/00032/HOU. Single storey extension. Glynheath, Wichenford, Worcester. Although the Parish Council has no objection to this proposal it was suggested that the alley between the new build end and window joining the buildings together should be removed and a velux window to be installed.

Finance

The balance for the 31st December 2011 stands at £13,143.26. There were 2 cheques totalling £750 for agreement and signature which included the Lengthsman fee and mowing of the village green.

Wichenford Memorial Hall.

The Parish Council are waiting for the outcome of the grant application the hall has put in for a new kitchen. A donation will be made once they have a decision.

NPDC. The Parish Council agreed to pay for the work on the oak tree at the Day Centre. The Parish Council will approach the Day Centre to see if there is anything specific they would like. Once feedback has been received Parish Council will purchase it. The acceptance of the finances was resolved.

To report any urgent decisions since the last meeting

The Clerk has attempted to get some grit boxes but it is proving difficult as the locations suggested do not meet with the Highways criteria. The Clerk met with the highways authority to point out the locations as they were having some difficulty finding them. The Parish Council can purchase the grit boxes themselves but as they wouldn't be authorised by the highways department they would not be filled up with grit. It may be possible for the Lengths man to fill them from the salt stores.

Correspondence

For decision by the Parish Council (Information only)

All correspondence in the folder has been passed around for Councillors to comment on. Emails regarding Salt Boxes; To Grit or not to Grit.; Council Tax precept request, District and Parish Council Elections; Budget Consultation Meeting Date; Fieldwork Magazine; Report on VAS from Hallow PC; Calc Update 10/34-10/42 emailed.

Councillors Report and Items for Future Agendas

There have been no accidents on Kenswick bends since the white bollards have been put up. The railings on the bends have still not been repaired and the Parish Council will email the appropriate authorities. The Parish Council have arranged a litter pick for 26th March along with a skip to be placed on the verge opposite the Millennium Green. Both these items will be advertised in The Villager (March). Councillors were asked to think of ideas for a party on 26th April to celebrate the Royal Wedding, ideas to be discussed at the next meeting.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Meetings were arranged for 28th Feb and 11th April 2011 at 7.30pm

In the Garden



Spring arrives officially on March 21st and for those of us who grow vegetables this is a very busy month indeed. The soil should be warming up and you can help this along by placing cloches or sheets of black plastic over beds for one or two weeks before planting. Its now time to put in the first early potatoes, onion sets, broad beans, lettuce and spring onions. Under cover you can start off peppers, tomatoes and courgettes.

In the flower garden you need to finish pruning summer-flowering shrubs such as buddleia and hardy fuchsias, summer clematis and roses. Keep an eye open in supermarkets and garden centres for summer-flowering bulbs and tubers to plant out now, there are some interesting colour-themed packs around.

You can also now sow sweet peas and hardy annuals outdoors where you want them to flower, don't forget to add compost and/or slow release fertiliser granules to the soil first. Sweet peas in particular need feeding well if you hope to cut lots of flowers. There is still time to sow summer bedding plants in a propagator, or you can buy plants from Martley Horticultural Society Spring Show, Saturday March 26 in Martley Village Hall.





Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

March 2011 - Lent



It is not unusual for people to want to give something up, particularly as we often want to give up smoking, eating too much, drinking too much or any general excess because we know that they are bad for our health. These are all things that are of benefit us.

Giving up something for Lent is a somewhat different challenge. I admire anyone who has a discipline in life that enables them to give things up for particular purposes or periods of time. Lent, however, is part of our spiritual discipline, to not necessarily forego things although fasting is encouraged and can be good for our spiritual well being, it is rather more to do with our commitment to follow Jesus more clearly and discern his purposes for our lives day by day. This may mean giving things up or it may mean "taking new things up", just as anyone wishing to lose weight not only has to give up food but also take on exercise, otherwise the benefit is negligible. Fasting and prayer is part of our spiritual discipline that goes hand in hand with the exercise of our Christian faith in all its facets of word and deed. This Lent we will be holding Lent Lunches across our group of Parishes. If anyone wishes to join us for the light

lunch you are most welcome. It will include a "thought for the day" based on the themes of prayer, fasting, the bible and service. If you wish to join us the Church Diary will indicate where these lunches are being held. Along with this there will be an evening Lent Supper and the Maundy

Thursday Christian Passover to look forward to.

These disciplines we can see were something that Jesus himself made use of during his time of fasting and prayer. He used the bible against the devil in the desert in preparation for the service that would follow, so too I hope that we can learn from his example as we seek to follow him through Lent to the cross and to the victory of Easter. God Bless

David Sherwin

The Turin Shroud

It has been said that this is the single most studied artefact in history (I.E. Barrie Schwortz). It is certainly a fascinating mystery that has challenged scientists and theologians in recent years. I recently met a lady who tours with a full size replica of the shroud and the photographs that go with it, and gives a fascinating talk and insight into its origins, history and meaning. If you are fascinated by historical artefacts and mysteries then why not come along to St Peter's Church, Martley and view the replica shroud and photographs for yourself on Monday 14th March at 7.30pm. Further details from David Sherwin on 01886 888664.

CHURCH DIARY MARCH 2011

Tuesday 1 March	10:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wednesday 2 March	12 Noon Prayer Meeting at Knightwick Chapel (PATH)
Thursday 3 March	12-2pm Lunch in Company at Broadwas Village Hall
SUNDAY 6 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
Monday 7 March	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tuesday 8 March	<i>Shrove Tuesday</i>
	10:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wednesday 9 March	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
	10:15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
	7.30pm Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
Thursday 10 March	2.00pm Pastoral Meeting at Brook Court (Mrs J Hyslop)
SUNDAY 13 MARCH	8:00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
	10:30am Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
	10:30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
	10:30am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Monday 14 March	8.30am Prayer Breakfast at David's
Tuesday 15 March	10:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
SUNDAY 20 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
Monday 21 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tuesday 22 March	10:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wednesday 23 March	10:15am Holy Communion Heaton House
Saturday 26 March	Scalextric event (see separate advertisement)
SUNDAY 27 MARCH	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
	10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
	10.30am Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
	6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
Monday 28 March	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tuesday 29 March	10am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Thursday 31 March	9am 'Mothering Sunday Service' at Broadwas Primary School

We are always available to talk or visit you if that is your wish, be it pastoral matters, baptisms, weddings or funerals, or however we can help.



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 aileenjparker@gmail.com
Church (Worcestershire West Rural Team)	<i>Rector:</i> Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 or davidwin56@aol.com <i>Assistant Priest:</i> Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Parish Council	<i>Chair:</i> Cllr. D Goodyear—01886 888423; <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 Toddler Group	Will—01886 888340 or Jane—01886 888852
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
Martley Recreation Association (playing fields)	<i>Bookings</i> —Pat Owen 01886 888406 pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk
Martley Memorial Village Hall Committee	<i>Chair</i> —Neil Stammers 01886-888513 neil.stammers@btinternet.com <i>Secretary</i> —Annette Smith 01886-821895 villagehall@martley.org or Lyn Wheeler 01886-889240 mortlake10@martley.org
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
Martley Local Policing Officer	Helen Cooper, 40061— Phone 0300 333 3000 or email martley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

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 ...

Broadheath Discussion Club

An enjoyable evening was held at Sapey Golf Club, the event being the Annual Goose Supper for the Broadheath Farmers Discussion Club. About 100 people enjoyed a delicious meal, the main course being the superb roast goose!

Our local farmers as usual did well in the competitions which had been judged in the summer, but results are kept under wraps until the dinner. The judges' decisions were as follows:

Winter Wheat – W Arnold, H Simmonds, G Probert.

Barley – T Leach, A Simmonds, W Yardley.

Combineable Crops – R Bray, T Hughes, R Smart.

Maize – P Andrews, T Pargeter, T Hughes.

Grass – N Farmer, T Pargeter, G Probert.

Beef – M Brian, P Weeks, G Probert.

Dairy – P Andrews, P Field, J Richards.

Sheep – G Probert, M Brian, M Yardley

Quote of the Month

Friendship isn't a big thing - it's a million little things.

British Summer Time Starts

Sat 26 Mar /Sun 27 Mar 2011

Dont forget to put those clocks forward one hour. The time change is actually during the night: at 1am on Sunday morning the time is changed to 2am.