

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 11 No. 10

March 2003

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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*

## Diary

### Regular events:

**Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing**

Weds 7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

*Enquiries:* Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

**Weight Watchers 6.30-7.30pm Tuesdays**

Martley Memorial Hall. *Enquiries:* Jennie Barnes 01886 888712

**Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley**

**Evening Telephone Service**

Tuesdays 4.30-8pm 01584 810860

**Short mat Bowling Tuesdays 2pm** Martley Memorial Hall

*For Church services, please see Church News*

- Sat 1 **Tree planting on Martley Millennium Green** 10.30am
- Mon 3 **Martley Parish Council Meeting** 8pm Memorial Hall
- Tue 4 **Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)**
- Fri 7 **Women's World Day of Prayer** 2pm Martley Church
- Sun 9 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick  
**Martley Ramblers to Old Storridge.** Leave Church car park 2pm
- Mon 10 **Wichenford Parochial Church Council meeting** 7.45pm at The Cob House .
- Wed 12 **Martley WI: Mr D Harrington on London—Stranger than Fiction** 7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall
- Sun 16 **Open Garden in aid of The National Gardens Scheme** 2-6pm at 1 Prickley Bungalows, Hockhams Lane, Martley courtesy of Megan Griffiths
- Tue 18 **Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship** 2.30pm at the home of Dora Williams
- Wed 19 **Citizens Advice Bureau:** 12-1pm Great Witley Surgery and 1.30-2.30pm Knightwick Surgery - by appointment. Tel. 01584 810860
- Thu 20 **Royal British Legion Beetle Drive** 7pm Heaton House 50p entrance. All welcome  
**Meeting of Wichenford Wine Club** 8pm Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Sat 22 **Martley Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show** 2pm Memorial Hall
- Thu 27 **Martley & District Horticultural Society:** Judy Berry talks on the national Gardens Scheme 7.30pm Martley Memorial Village Hall
- Fri 28 **Coffee morning in aid of St Richard's Hospice** at the Guild Hall, Worcester
- Sun 30 **Mothering Sunday**

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

# Martley Parish Council

An ordinary meeting of the Martley parish council was held on Monday 6 January 2003 at the Memorial Hall

(Mr B E Draper MBE - Chairman)

Before the meeting started the Chairman welcomed Mrs Mary Wilkinson, Chairman of Malvern Hills District Council 2002/03 to the meeting and she thanked him for his invitation to attend.

## MATTERS ARISING

- a) Lengthman. The Chairman reported that Mr T Pearsall had applied for the position. He had attended a meeting with him and Mr G Lucitt, of the Highways Partnership, and was satisfied that he could do the job. He had accepted the Agreement and Job Description, which was approved by the Parish Council. Mr Pearsall was duly appointed and welcomed.
- b) Core Classes of Information for Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to satisfy the requirements of this Act the Parish Council is required to have suitable standing order procedures for meetings and Chairmanship. It was suggested that the appropriate NALC publication be adopted. Copies of this publication, together with a proposed complaints procedure and liaison with principal Councillors, was circulated to Councillors at the meeting.
- c) Neighbourhood Watch. Mr N

Stammers said progress had been slow over Christmas and New Year but he still hoped to launch the new scheme shortly.

- d) Other. Mr A Saunders, the Rural Housing Enabler, said the MHDC Local Plan was behind schedule but he hoped to hold a discussion with the Planners about possible sites for affordable housing within the next two weeks.

The water outflow tainted with diesel at Hillside has been referred again to the Environment Agency and a report is due this week.

Mr Cropp reported that a further meeting was to be held with Broadheath & Hallow Parish Councils to consider various options to improve the Bus service.

## PARISH MATTERS

There were no Parish Matters raised.

## REPORTS

Mr A Davies (CC) sent word that on examination the Government Support Grant increase of 6% was not as generous as it at first appeared. Inspectors had rated Worcestershire County Council's overall performance as good.

Mrs B Williams said there was as yet no news as to the likely District rate level.

## PLANNING

- a) Applications for comment:  
Ankers, Hipplecote - timber patio decking, no objections.

Hillcrest, Collins Green - rear extension, no objections.

Brook Court, Horn Lane - new barn and three holiday cottages. This application was discussed at some length and it was decided to hold a site visit there. Subsequently it was agreed that there was no objection in principle, but a restriction should be imposed to prevent the cottages being sold as permanent dwellings in the future.

“Ivy Glen”, Hillside - orchid house. The Parish Council could see no objections.

b) Applications approved by MHDC: Laughern House Estate, Martley - conversion of Art block to form three dwellings, six new build units and alteration to Headmaster’s house and two staff houses. The Parish Council had strongly objected to the six new build dwellings but without success.

c) Public Path Order

Notification was received of a proposal to divert footpath number 10 around Pudford Farm. The Clerk was asked to consult with the Footpath Officer.

### FINANCE

a) Cheques were agreed and signed totalling £603.43p.

It was agreed to watch passenger numbers on the free monthly coach, as only 10 a month had travelled in October, November and December from Martley. This was at a cost to the parish of £3.60 per passenger and when compared to the Bus Pass for Old Age Pensioners at £1.85 return from Worcester hardly represents Best

Value. WOULD PARISHIONERS WHO ARE OAP’S PLEASE NOTE: more passengers needed. `Use or lose`.

b) To consider further assistance to Martley Millennium Green. The Maintenance Schedule for 2003 and Project Schedule for 2003/04 had been received and circulated with the minutes. It was agreed to fund the maintenance in 2003 totalling £315.00 on a quarterly basis starting in March 2003.

### CORRESPONDENCE

A letter of thanks had been received from the Malvern Hills Citizens Advice Bureau for the donation.

Two surveys were answered covering Allotment Sites and Quality Public Space.

### COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mrs M Randall welcomed a smaller refuse vehicle up Barbers Lane and hoped it would continue its good work.

Mr Cropp asked for an agenda item at the next meeting for the Memorial Hall Library and Cyber Café.

Next Meeting. The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance. The next meeting is on Monday 3 March 2003.

*C C Vyvyan-Robinson  
Parish Clerk tel: 821 623.*

# OUT AND ABOUT I N MARTLEY

[www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk)



## *Martley WI*

**Wednesday 12 March 7.30pm**  
**Memorial Hall**

We are well into 2003 and enjoying the programme and speakers Liz Slough has arranged for us. This month we are looking forward to hearing from Mr D Harrington on why "London is stranger than fiction". Sounds very intriguing. The competition is for a pot plant grown by a member. Plans are in hand for spring and summer activities, including an outing to see the spring gardens at Hampton Court, probably on 26 April, and the garden meeting on 11 June. The committee are always keen to have further suggestions for outings and courses. Anyone interested in any craft courses? There could be an outlet to sell craft items at the Federation Autumn Fair in the Guildhall. Please get in touch.

*Kate King*

## *Martley Ramblers*

**9 March 2pm Church car park**

One would imagine it would be hard to lose any Ramblers on a 5-mile circuit of Worcester via Pitchcroft,

Birmingham and Worcester Canal, Diglis Basin and Kleve Walk, but careless leaders Harry and Kate King did just that. Luckily they were not permanently lost or drowned, just mislaid and all reached home safely. Must try harder next time. David Wilkes will obviously be more careful with his charges this month when he leads around Old Storridge. Cars leave church car park 2pm.

*Kate King*

## *Tesco Computers for Schools*

There will be a central collection point for the Tesco 'Computers for Schools' vouchers at Martley Village Post Office. The vouchers will be used to collect computer equipment for Martley CE Primary School. All donations are gratefully received. Thanks to everyone's support last year, the school was able to exchange the tokens for a scanner.

*Mary McGahan and Helen Davis*

## *Pudford Lane*

The resurrection of the Neighbourhood Watch has been a good excuse to negotiate the streams and potholes to chat up the residents. It was good to have a 100 percent take-up, especially from those at the end who are officially in Shelsley

Beauchamp. They can't help being at a dead end and even with 4 x 4 vehicles it would be difficult to drive across the common and to ford the river at Homme Castle or thereabouts. Presumably any felony would have to be committed from the Martley end.

Will the new Lengthman for Martley dare to venture this far into the wilds of Worcestershire? Tom, please give us a twirl and see if you can exert any influence to get the holes filled and the streams along the tarmac diverted. The Hillside lay-by continues to prove a good area for depositing litter. Where do all the wheel trims come from? Perhaps we could run a profitable business in second-hand clothes, furniture and car spares. Proceeds to good causes, naturally.

*Kate King*

### ***The Basil Haines Memorial***

The fund for a memorial to the late Basil Haines (possibly a sundial) closes on 31 March 2003. Details were in the November Villager. Cheques if desired to Mr M Curren, Prickley Green Farm, Martley, Worcester, marked 'Sundial Fund'.

### ***Heaton House Bingo***

I would like to thank Doris Goodyear for a lovely evening at Bingo and the wonderful food and drinks party. Long may she carry on helping us to enjoy ourselves. Many thanks from a Heaton House OAP Bingo Player.

### ***Fund Raising for St Richard's Hospice***

St Richard's Hospice will be holding a Mother's Day Coffee Morning in the Guildhall on Friday 28 March. There will be stalls for plants, gifts, cakes and preserves, books and a tombola. If you have any suitable items that you would like to donate then please telephone 01886-821884 or 01886-822182 and we will arrange to collect. Do please come along to support your local Hospice. Thank you.

### ***Is Martley unique?***

Some time ago in the 60s Canon Leatherbarrow and myself tried to find out if there was another place called Martley, and after a lot of research we came to the conclusion that there was nowhere else with such a name. Some recent research using my computer has found—still only one Martley!

*Peter Downes*

### ***Martley Spurs***

January began with pouring rain, snow followed, then it all froze over which meant all football matches being postponed. The same thing happened again the following weekend when even the cup third round matches were put off to a later date.

Play was finally possible when the weather relented and the pitches dried out on the 18th. The Saturday Premier

eleven unfortunately lost 5-4 to Bretforton Old Boys, but the Sunday Premier boys overcame Droitwich Spa by 5-1 when Chris Collins netted a hat trick and both Richard Taylor and Adam Baldwin added one to their personal accounts. The Reserves had a win too by beating The Bridge by three goals to one.

There was no fixture for the Saturday Premier side on the 21st but the two Sunday teams both played. The Premier side lost by one goal in a high scoring game and the Reserves were unable to get passed Express 88's goalie.

All these missed encounters mean the Spurs have played less matches than their adversaries and find themselves quite low down in the league tables although the Sunday squad is holding its own in third place.

*Beth Williams*

### ***Porcine Play Time***

Should you be buying the odd toy in Woolworths or Toys-R-Us don't be surprised if you find your farming neighbours queuing up to buy footballs, they are not signing up for Manchester United or even Martley Spurs, they are not even thinking of diversifying by helping Santa's elves, oh, no, they are buying play things to keep their bacon and ham producers happy.

Believe it or not (pig farmers have to), as from 1 February porkers are legally obliged to have toys - also known as

manipulable material - yes 'manipulable' does exist in a very large dictionary - in their pens to promote their welfare. I wonder if DEFFRA will subsidize them or perhaps the lottery fund will offer the odd million to provide porcine pacifiers. Would the local farmers like to let me know what play ground objects they have bought for their pigs presuming that they would eat such things as teddy bears and such like even if they managed not to swallow the footballs!

*Beth Williams*

### ***Martley Cricket Club***

#### **The Big Game**

Yes it's on! Once again the stars of Worcestershire Cricket will be playing in Martley. In our last news bulletin we were waiting for confirmation of the Benefit Match against David Leatherdale's team, and we now have that confirmation. It's on **Sunday 22 June 2003** and you are all very welcome to come along and join in.

The game will start at 2.30pm, and at the moment it's impossible to say who will be playing for the Benefit Team, but Worcestershire have signed two South African Test stars for 2003, and they have all the usual stars like Graham Hick, Vickram Solanki, Gareth Batty, Kabir Ali and the like who have all played for England at different levels. We may not know until the day before who will play, but David has promised to get the best possible side out.

If you came to the two other games staged at Martley for Steve Rhodes and Stuart Lampitt you'll know it is a good afternoon out....and one you will not be charged to get !!!

We are going to be offering Corporate Hospitality for the day, and local companies etc will be contacted in the near future. In the meantime if you need any more details of the day, contact Dave Bradley 078 666 5985 or e-mail [dave.bradley@bbc.oc.uk](mailto:dave.bradley@bbc.oc.uk).

More to come.....

### **League News**

The latest from the Worcestershire County League is that we shall be playing fewer games this year. As was mentioned before, Bulmers had joined the league and been put in Division Three, but following problems with the ground, in that the company are selling part of it off, they have withdrawn, so the Third Division has been revamped. This means we don't start the League programmed until 3 May with the last League games on 30 August, and there are NO Bank Holiday games. As yet the actual fixtures aren't with us, but as soon as they are we shall let you know.

Our league fees this year are £120 for two teams.

We also have to buy balls from the League, which is going to cost us over £400, so a lot of expense before we even start the League season.

### **Indoor nets**

Nets have started on Friday evening at the Martley Sports Centre, starting at 7pm, the facilities are there for you to

use, Gandy is the 'gaffer' so if you want to know more contact him, but all ages, all sexes, anyone interested, get along on Fridays at 7pm.

### **The big shoot**

Many thanks to our President, Don Taylor, for organising a shoot in aid of Club funds. It's taking place as I write, but I'm sure will be a big success. Thanks Mr President, your help and support is very much appreciated. And also a big thank you to everyone taking part.

### ***Triallers Flock to Kings Green!***

When Gill Watson and Andy Nickless moved into Kings Green Farmhouse in December, they brought their three Border Collie sheepdog bitches Dot, Mossie and Reiver with them. Since then they have added two dogs (Glen and Taff) and a bitch (Meg) to their kennel. The older dogs are highly skilled, capable of gathering, driving, penning and shedding whilst Andy trains the younger dogs with a view to trialling or selling on as excellent farm dogs. His ambition is to represent England with a dog he has trained himself.

The couple travel the length and breadth of the UK to watch and take part in sheepdog trials and are keen to help local farmers who need help with moving sheep. "It's great experience for the dogs to work new sheep and in different locations" says Gill. At present the couple keep seven Welsh

Mules near Droitwich where they help the landowner with her sheep in exchange for grazing. They are keen to find somewhere local, possibly a similar arrangement or for rent, and are happy to consider almost anything - long or short term.

Andy is a professional photographer and has a website: [www.workingsheepdog.co.uk](http://www.workingsheepdog.co.uk) featuring action photographs of sheepdogs and handlers.

If you have grazing available, or sheep which you are willing to have worked from time to time, please contact Andy or Gill on 01886 888917 or call at the house and meet the team!

### *Chantry News*

We are now well in to 2003 but there is good news to report from the past year. In November we had our annual Awards Evening at which the school celebrates the successes of the outgoing Year 11 and rewards outstanding achievement. This year congratulations go to Natalie Jeffries for Examination Performance, Mathematics and History.

Christmas saw the departure of John Townsend our Special Needs Co-ordinator. His presence will be sorely missed and those who came to see, or performed in, his shows and productions will have recognized his great talent. He is now working for a major publisher writing books for children.

Building works: the old ROSLA

(Raising Of the School Leaving Age) block is being gutted and re-clad. It is going to cause tremendous disruption but the result will be worth it.

The Chantry is putting together a bid to achieve specialist school status in technology. We have to raise £50,000 sponsorship. If we are successful with our application we will receive large injections of funding, after which we can apply for further funding. It is a really exciting opportunity so please help if you can - we will tell you more about how we are going to raise this money: there is a **quiz evening** in school on 21 March at 7.30pm. There will be a licensed bar for the evening and please bring a picnic to feed the little grey cells. Entry is £3 per person and teams of six should be entered.

Are you an athlete, marathon runner or just game to have a go? Why not enter our **Fun Run** on 10 May. There will be a small entry fee for runners and sponsorship forms will be available nearer the time. Even if you don't run you can still help by sponsoring!

Half way through the year is the **Anniversary Ball** on 21 June. Do you have any photographs or memorabilia of Chantry High School? If you have would you be willing to lend them to the PTFA ? If so, or if you would like more information about any of the PTFA fund-raising events please contact Gina Hastings at [nigelp52@onetel.net.uk](mailto:nigelp52@onetel.net.uk).

*Chantry High School PTFA*



## *Music and Martley*

### **Rachmaninov Vespers**

As mentioned in last month's Villager there will be a candlelit performance of Rachmaninov's Vespers. The date is now definitely fixed for Saturday November 29th. (nb not the 8th.)

It will be performed by the Armonico Consort - who have worked with a number of orchestras, and have just released their first CD.

The concert will include other Russian chant, as well as an interesting experiment before the concert to ring St. Peter's bells in the style of St. Petersburg.

The concert will be nationally advertised from about June. If you are a Villager reader you can reserve seats now - it will be a sell-out. They cost £9 (£6 oap and young persons).

### **Music of the Night Christmas Concert**

On Saturday December 20th "Music of the Night" will be returning with an evening of songs, stories, carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

Many of you will know what a quality evening they give us - and what better way to begin Christmas than with an evening together! Tickets for this evening - which again is likely to sell-out, due to table settings - will cost £7.50 including refreshments.

If you would like to reserve now for both concerts please ring me - I already have bookings coming in for Rachmaninov.

*Dave Cropp (01886 888398)*

## *Martley & District Horticultural Society*

Members were welcomed to the first meeting of the new year by their new chairman, Barbara Kirby. She introduced the guest speaker, Rachel Salisbury, who has spent years studying the early plant hunters. She spends a lot of time lecturing students and speaking at Horticultural and Gardening Club meetings. The talk was illustrated with slides showing the plant hunters and the plant species that they discovered around the world and introduced to this country. Some are grown extensively today in our gardens, including magnolias, aquilegia, rhododendrons, primulas, iris and forsythia.

At the next meeting on Thursday 27 March at 7.30pm, Martley Village Hall, the speaker will be Judy Berrow. She will give an illustrated talk featuring gardens open for the National Gardens Scheme. New members welcome.

The Spring Flower Show will be held in Martley Village Hall on Saturday 22 March at 2pm. There will also be polyanthus, pansies, perennials, potted spring bulbs, cakes and preserves for sale. Schedules can be obtained from the village shops or a Society member. The Show is open for anyone to enter, so do 'have a go'. There are 17 classes and five classes for children.

*Nellie Bradley*

Show Classes over the page:

1. 3 Daffodils or Narcissi, single flower, mixed or one variety
2. 3 Tulips, any type or variety
3. 3 Daffodils or Narcissi, double flower, mixed or one variety
4. 3 Miniature Tulips, and species
5. 3 Daffodils or Narcissi, multi-headed, mixed or one variety
6. 5 stems cultivated Primroses
7. 3 Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, single-headed, mixed or one variety
8. 5 stems Polyanthus
9. 3 Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, multi-headed, mixed or one variety
10. 6 Pansies, mixed or one variety
11. 3 Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, double flower, mixed or one variety
12. One cut bloom from a bulb
13. Specimen bloom – Daffodil or Narcissi
14. A vase of 5 mixed cut Spring Flowers, excluding shrubs
15. An arrangement of Spring Flowers, 18" x 18"
16. An arrangement of Flowering Shrubs, 24" x 24"
17. Easter Bonnet

### Children's Classes

1. 3 Daffodils or Narcissi, any variety, in a pop can
2. 5 Cultivated Primroses in an egg cup
3. 3 Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, any variety, in a pop can
4. Garden on a plate or tray
5. Decorated hard-boiled egg in egg-cup

## In the Garden



March is the month of varied weather. It can be wet and cold and strong wind can do a lot of damage, but the seeds of many plants can be sown. Sow onion seed sown in modules with two or three seeds in a section then plant out, leaving the seedlings to grow on. Sow carrots, parsnips, broad beans and peas in the garden if soil conditions are favourable. Sow tomato, lettuce, cucumber, summer cabbage, sprouts, cauliflower, kidney beans, French beans, dwarf and climbing types in containers to be sure of good germination. Start tomato and cucumber in warm conditions (65-70 F). An FI all-female variety must be used if using a cheap cucumber seed. Remove the male flowers, as these pollinate the female flowers and the cucumbers will be bitter. Do not be in too big a hurry to plant potatoes. They do not like the cold, wet ground. Wait for the soil to warm up. Sow sweet pea seed deep in containers. Plant begonia tubers in trays with the hollow side of the tubers on the top and push firmly into compost. When shoots are 1" high pot up individually. Crocosmia can be lifted, if they have become overgrown, and split up and replanted.

*Jack Bradley*



# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

I recently spoke to the students at Chantry High School about things that make us embarrassed our feelings when it happens. I shared a story with them about when I was embarrassed at school. It was a day when I could not find my woodwork apron so I went to school without it, knowing this would get me into trouble. That morning as I stood in assembly with hundreds of other pupils I stared out of the windows and saw a lady coming along the driveway as she got closer to the hall I realised it was my MOTHER!!! I felt acutely embarrassed as she opened the door to the hall. She called to a teacher and as he approached her she drew from her bag my apron. I felt relief I had not got to make up a story for the teacher, and embarrassment that everyone had seen my mother bring my apron to school. She pointed me out to the teacher then waved to me, I just nodded. How should a 13 year old respond to his mother in front of the whole school?

At the end of the assembly the teacher brought me my apron and as he gave it to me he said, "You are a very lucky young man to have such a Mother." Of course I am a very lucky man to have a mother like mine.

Mothering Sunday gives us an opportunity to say 'thank you' to our Mothers. The Bible tells us that God is like a mother to us, caring for us, as a mother cares for her young. And so as our mothers care for us they reflect God's love through their own lives. Let us thank God for them and for His love to us.

*Revd. David Sherwin, Rector  
Martley, Wichenford and  
the Lower Teme Valley*

<b>2 March</b>	<b>Next Before Lent</b>
<b>Wichenford</b>	9.30am Holy Communion
<b>Martley</b>	11am Family Service
<b>Broadwas</b>	11am Matins
<b>Knightwick</b>	8am Holy Communion
<b>Cotheridge</b>	6.30pm Evensong
<b>9 March</b>	<b>Lent 1</b>
<b>Wichenford</b>	10.0am All Age Worship
<b>Martley</b>	11am Holy Communion
<b>Broadwas</b>	11am Morning Worship
<b>16 March</b>	<b>Lent 2</b>
<b>Wichenford</b>	11am Matins
<b>Martley</b>	8am Holy Communion; 11am Morning Worship
<b>Broadwas</b>	11am Holy Communion
<b>Cotheridge</b>	9am Matins
<b>Knightwick</b>	3pm Evening Worship
<b>23 March</b>	<b>Lent 3</b>
<b>Wichenford</b>	11am Holy Communion
<b>Martley</b>	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
<b>Broadwas</b>	8am Holy Communion
<b>30 March</b>	<b>Lent 4</b>
<b>Wichenford</b>	10am Mothering Sunday Special
<b>Martley</b>	11am Mothering Sunday Special
<b>Broadwas</b>	11am Mothering Sunday Special



# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

## *Ladies Fellowship*

Our January meeting was held at the home of Mrs Jo Root who, together with husband Bill, made sure we all got there and gave us a warm welcome. Mrs Root also provided a lovely tea for us to enjoy (never mind the calories!). There was a lot to discuss and plan together, as so much had happened since we last met in December. A programme for the coming year finally took shape and promises to be both enjoyable and interesting. On 18 March we meet at the home of Mrs Dora Williams. New members are welcome, to enjoy the companionship and caring we all share.

## *Church Flowers*

2 March Mrs A Banks  
9 March— Lent, no flowers  
30 March

## *Dates for your Diaries*

**Women's World Day of Prayer** on  
Friday 7 March at St Peter's Church,  
Martley at 2pm

**Wichenford Parochial Church**



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

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

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**Council meeting** on Monday 10  
March at 7.45pm at The Cob House by  
kind invitation of Mr & Mrs W Banks.

**Ash Wednesday Communion  
Service:** Parishioners, please note this  
service will take place on 5 March at  
7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Martley.

**Mothering Sunday:** There will be a  
Mothering Sunday Service in  
Wichenford Church on 30 March at  
10am. This will be an All Age Service.

## *Baptisms*

Baptised in Wichenford Church, Laura  
Emily, daughter of Julia and Edward  
Samuels, and Charlotte Jennifer  
Garvie, daughter of Sophie and Carl  
Garvie. We welcome you into God's  
Family.

## *Nora Parsons Day Centre*

The Nora Parsons Day Centre has again enjoyed a very eventful year, the highlight being the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated by two very enjoyable tea parties – one on the Monday and the other for Thursday members. Many guests attended on either day and a good time was had by all! It is hoped in the near future to invite Nora Parson's niece Joan to unveil a plaque commemorating 25 years of the Centre.

Once again the Christmas Bazaar was a resounding success and thanks must go to everyone who supported it in such a splendid way. Due to everyone's generosity the grand sum of £463.36 was raised. A big thank you also to the Martley Football Cup Competition for so kindly donating £200 for Day Centre funds. We are most grateful.



## *Wichenford WI*

### **Wichenford WI – 1944-2003**

On Tuesday 7 January a meeting was held at the home of Mrs Karen Oldfield. WI Adviser Mrs Sylvia Perkins chaired the meeting, six members were present, four were absent due to illness. It was with much regret and disappointment that the members agreed to suspend Wichenford WI for three years.

During this intermission, if anyone else would like to activate WI in the village, they have the right to apply.

## *In Memoriam*

### **Derek Henry George Bennett**

June, Jeremy, Michelle and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all neighbours and friends for the kind messages of sympathy, cards, letters and donations received as a result of the sad loss of Derek. Derek died suddenly Christmas morning aged 72 years, having lived on Kings Green for the past 26 years. We are sure he will be remembered for his patience, helpfulness and consideration for others.

### **From the Parish**

We are all so sorry that Derek has passed away. He was a well-known local figure; many of us have paths and drives designed by Derek. Derek's main hobby was boating which he enjoyed with his family. He had a ready wit and always greeted everyone with a smile and a joke. He was also a devoted family man and will be sadly missed by all of us who knew him.

### **Drusilla Mary Grosvenor**

We are all so saddened that Drusilla has passed away; the village has lost a valued friend. Drusilla had lived in Wichenford for many years. Sadly, her first husband, Pete Williams, died when quite young. Valerie and Barry were children of that marriage.

Drusilla married secondly Wilfred Grosvenor and Roger and Vivienne were the children of that union. Drusilla was a founder member of the Ladies Fellowship and always supported village events. She especially enjoyed the whist drives. Her garden gave her particular pleasure, roses being a great favourite. She was also very fond of the wild birds and many different species fed on her bird tables, which gave great delight. We shall all miss a much respected neighbour.

### **John Norman Wall**

Norman was born in Shropshire, the eldest son of John and Sarah Wall. The family moved to Shelsley Beauchamp in 1938, to work on the Church House Farm. As Norman was nearly 14 years old (school leaving age at the time), the Education Authority decided it wasn't worth him starting at the village school, so he also went to work at the Church House. Norman, being an agricultural worker, could have been exempt from being "called up" in the Second World War – but he was adamant that as his father and uncle had served in the first World War, he fully intended to follow in their footsteps and do his bit. He gave exemplary service in the Royal Navy and was on HMS Belfast during the Battle of the Scharnhorst in 1943. In later years he had the opportunity to visit his old ship when it took final mooring on the River Thames at Tower Bridge.

Norman married Molly in 1951 and they were to have over 50 precious years together. Christopher and Anne were born in 1955 and 1957 respectively. When they married, Ann and Martin were welcomed into the family, followed by grandchildren, Rachel and Tom. Norman was a true country gentleman, whose knowledge and love of wildlife was extensive and interesting. His great hobby of shooting gave him much pleasure and a chance to enjoy the rural life. He is also famed for never being able to throw anything away, and "Norm's Shed" is legendary! He was also an experienced and knowledgeable tree surgeon. Indeed, his skill saved the beautiful copper beech tree that still stands proudly in Wichenford Churchyard. A man of great humour and integrity, he will be greatly missed.

### ***Wichenford 100 Club***

This month's winner is Colin Richardson who won £102.

### ***Wichenford Millennium Green***

Tidying & Inspection Rota March:  
Mervyn Mitchard.

### ***Wichenford Wine Club***

The Wine Club goes from strength to strength with 30 members attending the January meeting. We broke new ground in February by tasting fortified

wines, the evening was led by Barbara Holmes and was much appreciated by all who attended. Our Spring programme is now available and new members are always welcome.

In March, six members will each present their favourite wine on Thurs 20. On 17 April, Patrick Shave from the Hop Pocket will host a tasting of eight of his wines and on 15 May, Robin Williams will introduce us to some wines which he has learned to love. The summer garden meeting will be held at Colebrook House. As this is an open-air garden event, the meeting will start at 7pm, all other meetings start at 8pm and are held in the Memorial Hall.

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

Evening Classes – We have met with Dr John Hunt from Birmingham University and are planning a new series of evening classes for the Autumn of this year.

Dendrochronology – I have received an email from Nigel which confirms that he has analysed the cores taken from beams in several half timbered, listed buildings in the parish. He has been able to date the majority of the cores but some didn't date. I don't know the details at the time of writing (28 Jan) but none appear to date earlier than 16<sup>th</sup> C.

The repeat presentation by Victoria Bryant was a great success, Victoria is now a joint director of a new ceramics

centre based at the Worcestershire Archaeological Services at Worcester University College. We are trying to arrange an evening meeting for March but no details are yet to hand.

We have successfully applied to the County Council for a grant under their Discovering Worcester scheme. We have been given £969 for the 'Start-up' phase which we should complete by the end of March and are then hopeful of getting a further £2000 to investigate the historical landscape of Wichenford. Much of the grant will be used to pay John Day as a consultant as we further investigate the parish boundary as defined in the Saxon Charter bound of 757. We will discuss the details of this grant at the AGM.

The AGM of the Group is to be held on Wednesday 26 February and we plan to discuss what we are doing and what we intend to do; we also plan to make this also a celebration.

Parish bounds – We had our first walk along the southern part of the parish boundary on 23 February. John Day was his usual very knowledgeable, enthusiastic self and we learned something about the parish in Anglo-Saxon times.

We still have no date for an expert review of the finds from our walk on Sawpit field although Neil is working on this. Neil is also endeavouring to contact a geophysicist (I understand this will be the one from the Time Team) as we now have a window of opportunity to scan the Cockshoot field later this year in Aug/Sept

Tithe map – work is proceeding apace on the parish tithe map and a computer copy is being prepared.

Anyone with the time, should go to the Records Office and look at the original, it is about 8ft square, hand drawn in colour and is a work of art.

It is interesting to see such a large scale representation of the parish in 1838; if you are interested in moated farmhouses, almost every farm in the parish was moated.

*Mervyn Mitchard*

## ***Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council***

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 6 January in the Memorial Hall Wichenford at 7.30 pm.

### **REPORTS**

Both our County Councillor and District Councillor were unable to attend the meeting.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

The six-wheeled refuse lorries are still being used at Barbers Lane, even though the smaller caged lorry is being used at Rosses Lane. Councillor Wheatley-Mills agreed to write to the Malvern Hills District Council.

The district council looked at the oak tree by the Millennium Green and they will not pay towards any work needed, as they do not own it. The Parish Council referred the invoice back to the Millennium Green Committee for discussion at the next meeting.

### **FINANCE**

The proposed budget was discussed in detail. Currently Martley and Wichenford Parish councils are reviewing the cost of the pensioner's coach. They are not sure if the amount of parishioners using it makes it very cost effective. Councillors agreed to keep the coach for the time being and monitor the amount of pensioners using it. Any one of pensionable age can use the coach **free of charge**. It will pick up passengers anywhere along the route from Martley to Wichenford, and it runs the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month. It picks up at the T-Junction in Wichenford at 10-15, and then goes down Venn Lane to the Masons Arms on to Worcester. It leaves Worcester at 2pm. **So please use it or loose it.**

The council agreed to pay Rogers Coaches £54.00 for the last three months.

The District Auditor has returned the councils accounts with some outstanding questions. The clerk and councillor Randall has arranged to meet with the internal auditor once she returns to work.

The Millennium Green insurance was discussed. The council agreed in principle to pay the insurance for the coming year, but it must be reviewed annually. In future any organisation asking for a contribution from the council should produce their accounts.

The bus shelter has now been erected and paid for.

After examination of the proposed



budget it was agreed by the Parish Council to ask for a precept of £6,000.00. This includes grants to village societies, insurance, pensioner's coach, stationery/books, subscriptions, hall rent, elections, clerks/councillors training, audit and clerk's salary and expenses.

The clerk was authorised to pay: - SLCC Membership £48.00, MHDC for village skip £98.00, Wichenford churchyard £300.00.

### **PLANNING**

Application for a single storey side extension and front canopy at The Elms Cottage, Frenchlands Lane, has been passed.

Construction of green all weather tennis court at Kenswick Mill Barn has been granted.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillor Panton will attend the WCC Worcestershire Assembly Meeting on 26.3.03.

Councillor Randall and Panton will attend the rural transport needs and solutions on 12.02.03.

Councillors requested a letter be written to the owners of the Masons Arms to ask what they intend to do with it, as it's a village eyesore, and a number of incidents have occurred recently.

### **NEXT MEETING**

17 February 2003 at 7.30pm

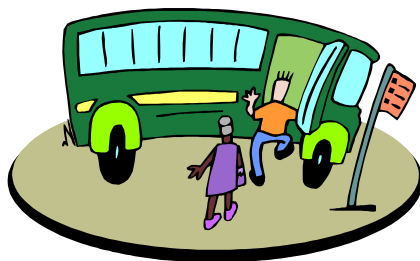
14 April 2003 Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45/8pm.

All in Wichenford Memorial Hall.

*Shirley Sanders  
Clerk to the council.*

## **HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW YOUR VILLAGE IS RUN**

On 1 May the 2003 the District Council and Parish Council will be holding its elections for office. Each councillor will be in office for a term of four years. The candidate must have occupied as owner or tenant property or land for twelve months in either Kenswick or Wichenford. Their principle place of work during those 12 months has been in the area, or they must have resided within three miles of the parish for twelve months. Wichenford has seven Councillors and Kenswick has two. If anyone would be interested to stand as councillor we hold approximately eight or nine meetings a year with occasional site visits between meetings. Please contact the clerk on 01886 888302 for more information.



*Anyone for town?*

## Would You Like to Keep Bees?

Most people who enjoy the outdoors are aware that there are far fewer honeybees around. Some people might be tempted to say good, they sting don't they?

This is overlooking the valuable contribution they make to the food chain, in terms of pollination, not honey production. It is estimated by DEFRA that every colony of bees produces a benefit of £800 of pollination. Other studies have shown that for every one pound of honey made farming/horticulture benefits by £40. A good colony should collect 700 lb of honey (of which 100 lb is harvested by the beekeeper) this multiplied by £40 gives a benefit of £28,000 per colony.

**So where have all the bees gone?** In 1992 a parasitic mite *Varroa destructor* arrived in this country. This is a parasite of the Indian bee and 'crossed over' to the European bee in the last few years. The Indian bee has evolved strategies to cope with the mite over the millennia, the European bee has not. The consequence of this alien invasion is that practically all our feral (living in trees, roofs wall etc.) colonies have died out. At present the only way to keep a colony alive is to treat it with a varroacide. Breeding efforts to produce a Varroa-tolerant strain of bees are underway but when they will produce results is anybody's guess.

### You can help 'fill the gap' by keeping honeybees.

If you are interested, **GREAT WITLEY BEEKEEPERS** are running **A BEGINNERS COURSE** this spring. The first lesson will start on Monday 10 March and run for 4 weeks with a fifth day for an apiary (outdoor) meeting.

**The cost will be £15 per person and will include two months free use of a bee suit and gloves** (then if you are not hooked it hasn't cost you much).

Please contact either:

Secretary: David Blakeway-Smith 01299 832821

email: dblakewaysmith@tiscali.co.uk

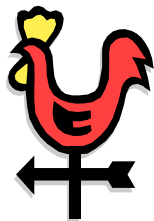
Chairman: Richard Jackman 01886 821237 email: beeman@theberrow.co.uk



**Royal British Legion.  
Beetle Drive at Heaton  
House on  
Thurs 20 March 7pm.  
Entrance 50p.  
All welcome.**

## Women's World Day of Prayer

*Women's World Day of Prayer on  
Friday 7 March at St Peter's  
Church, Martley at 2pm*



# Nature Ramblings

*The problem about lambs  
Is that each lamb  
Is a different jigsaw - and each piece  
Is a different problem.*

*Getting born - one problem  
Of many little pieces. The lamb has to solve it  
In the dark, with four fingers.*

*Once he's born - it's a case  
Of which problems come first. His mother won't have him.  
Or he's deficient and won't cooperate.  
Or he gets joint-ill  
Which sneaks in through the little wick of his umbilical cord before it dries up -  
Arthritis for infants.*

*After that comes Orf - known as Lewer.  
Ulcers of the nose, of the lips, of the eyes, of the toes,  
All at once,  
As you read about in the Bible.*

...

*Everything makes him cough. Just plain eating  
Gives him Fluke. Who invented the Fluke?  
It looks like the Fluke of an anchor.  
Where was God dozing when he let the Fluke  
Anchor in the lamb?*

*Then his back end for maggots.  
The blow-fly is Beelzebub. Maggots are hisimps.  
God I think forgot sheep altogether.*

*Sheep is a cruel puzzle of problems.  
Brain - what looks just like brainlessness  
Is a one-track genius  
For roaming, for searching out new pastures,  
Always somebody else's,*

*For unravelling weak places in hedges  
And producing a fine clear gap  
With a deep trench of tramplings going straight through it.*

*Sheep is a machine  
Of problems*

*For turning the Shepherd grey as a sheep. From "What is the Truth?" by Ted Hughes*

## ***Martley Parish Council***

In order to meet requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Martley Parish Council has adopted a Model Information Scheme (Core Classes Only) and the following documents can be made available for inspection on request to the Parish Clerk. If copies are required an appropriate charge will be made:

- Minutes of Parish Council Meetings (for the last 2 years)
- Procedural Standing Orders
- Council's Annual Report at the Annual Parish Meeting (for the last 2 years)
- Code of Conduct
- Councillor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office
- Members Register of Interests
- Register of Members' Interests Declared (detailed in Minute Book)
- Recommendations of the Boundary Committee Electoral Review (July 2000)
- Terms & Conditions of Employment
- Job Descriptions
- Responses to planning applications
- Parish Plan
- Annual accounts return form (for the last financial year)
- Annual Statutory Reports by internal and external Auditor (for the last financial year)
- Receipt/Payment books & Bank

statements for all accounts (for the last financial year)

- Copy of Precept Request (for the last financial year)
- VAT records (for the last financial year)
- Financial Standing Orders & Regulations
- Asset Register
- Risk Assessments

*C C Vyvyan-Robinson*

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

In May there are local elections. Martley has one of the most active and forward-looking Parish Councils in Worcestershire, and is seeking Quality Parish Status. Now is the time to stand for the Parish Council if you feel you have a positive contribution to make to the Community of Martley. Contact the Secretary for further details.

## ***Martley website***

**[www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk)**

After a slow start, the Martley web committee and many others are, as I write, working hard to update the site and get it to a position where it can be maintained easily.

Included will be information about the history, businesses, tourism and leisure activities in Martley and, of course, The Villager.

Check it out!

*Michelle Higgins*