

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 13 No. 10

March 2004

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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

Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

Telephone Service Mon & Tue 10am—3pm

Thu 10am—7.30pm 01584 810860

Great Witley & Knightwick Surgeries Weds

10am–4pm - by appt. Tel. 01584 810860

Short mat Bowling Tuesdays 2.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Weight Watchers Tue 6.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Enquiries Tracey Hopkins 07710 493 617

For Church services, please see Church Words

- Mon 1 **Martley Parish Council Meeting** 8pm
Memorial Hall
- Wed 10 **Martley WI: Hilary Harrison talks about designing carpets** 7.30pm
Martley Memorial Hall
- Sat 13 **Living with Bees—a talk by Graham Law** (Deputy Director of the National Space Laboratory) 2.30pm Abberley Village Hall
- Sun 14 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers to Mordiford, Hrfds. Leave Church car park 12.30pm
- Thu 18 **Meeting of The Wine Club** 8pm
Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Fri 19 **Quiz Night in aid of school funds** 7.30pm Chantry High School
- Sun 21 **Mothering Sunday**
11.00am, 3.00pm, and 4.00pm at Martley, Broadwas, Knightwick, and Wichenford are special services to celebrate Mothering Sunday.
- Thu 25 **Martley & District Horticultural Society:** Richard and Lesley Betts talk on ‘The Lost Gardens of Heligan’ 7.30pm Martley Memorial Village Hall
- Sat 27 **Personal and Private Interviews with our MP, Sir Michael Spicer** 9.30am Martley Village Hall
Martley & District Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show 2.30pm Memorial Hall
- Mon 29 **Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council Meeting** 7.45pm Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Fri 31 **An Evening With Brian Draper**—an illustrated talk on the River Severn (part 2) 7.30pm Wichenford Memorial Hall

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



Martley Parish Council

An ordinary meeting of the Martley Parish Council was held on Monday 5 January 2004 at the Memorial Hall, Mr. D. Cropp Chairman.

Matters Arising

Budget - the final budget would be agreed at the next meeting (2 Feb). Hope House Lane highway issues - the roadside markers will be cleaned and maintained and some additional markers added. Parking along Barbers Lane - the Clerk should write again letter to the Head Teacher at The Chantry and suggest that Martley P.C. put a notice on the field gate reminding car owners that large farm machinery regularly passes along the lane.

Village of the Year Award - the Chairman announced that the cheque for £1500.00 was on its way. It was agreed that The Clerk would write to three groups who had helped significantly in the success and ask for their suggestions for its disbursement. In addition grants of £100.00 would be given to: Martley Primary School for computer software/garden development; St. Peter's Church the

Basil Haines appeal/bell ringing; Millennium Meadow Trust for planting/naturalising; Martley Memorial Hall for kitchen equipment; Martley Web for development. The Chairman said that our success in the award is due to the parishioners of Martley working together to help each other. Youth Council - the Chairman felt that there is not enough for young people in Martley and the PC needs to give them the opportunity to express their views. It was agreed that an article would be placed in The Villager to encourage young people to come forward and suggest how this Council can be formed. It is hoped that a response will be forthcoming.

Parish Matters

Mr. R. Jackman expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for having the foresight to enter The Village of the Year Award and working hard to achieve it.

County Councillor's Report

Mr. A. Davies enquired if the objection to the sign at Laugherne Park had come from Martley P.C. The Chairman confirmed that WCC Highways had initiated it; however the

Parish Councillors' views were mostly in agreement with WCC Highways. Mr. Davies said that approximately £14.3M will be going into schools this next year. Council tax will increase, but at a little over 5% it will be one of the lowest in the country. The funding of "safer routes to school" will be in the next financial year.

District Councillor's Report

Mrs. B. Williams reported that the District Plan is out and reminded the Parish Council that the discussion meeting is on 22 January

Parish Footpath Officer's Report

Mr. Nicklin reported that the bridge on FP 63 had been augmented with a wooden base and handrail. Mr. M. Nott asked if Mr. Nicklin would be prepared to talk to dog owners who persistently allowed their dogs to roam free on farm land; names could be supplied. Mr. Nicklin thought he could, providing he had the full backing of the Parish Council. It was agreed to pursue this matter.

Planning

Received: 03/01668/FUL Quarry Farm – a report had been sent to MHDC Planning. 03/01984/FUL Maranatha Witton Hill – no objections.

Finance

There were 12 cheques totalling £1586.28 for agreement and signature: Income Dec 03: **£380.00. The grant for Malvern Hills District CAB** at £55.00 and the five local grants of £100.00 was carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from 18

sources including MHDC Draft District Local Plan, Bank of Ireland, WCC TV consortium re. recycling (Poster for notice board), DEFRA Equine issues, Sir Michael Spicer – Westminster Report, WCC Highways Partnership, MHDC Northern Area Joint Councillor Forum, MHDC Heaton House MPC, RAWM Briefing, NALC MAIL issue 23, Plus Publishing Services Local Councils Update, Campaign to Protect Rural England, MHDC Planning Applications and electronic information, WCC Budget Consultation Meeting, WCC Highways Partnership, John Gaunt & Partners –Transfer Application ref. Crown Inn, Worcestershire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

Councillors Reports and Future Agenda Items

The Chairman asked for the subject of the separation of costs between the Library/Cyber Café and the rest of the Memorial Hall to be included on the next agenda.

The next meeting is on Monday 2 February 2004. 8.00 pm

Tom Pearsall, Clerk to the Council

Martley & District Horticultural Society

Due to the inclement weather, the January meeting of the Society was cancelled. At the meeting on Thursday 25 March at 7.30pm at Martley Village Hall, the speakers will be Richard and Lesley Betts. Their

subject will be 'The Lost Gardens of Heligan'. New members very welcome.

The Spring Flower Show will be held in Martley Village Hall on Saturday 27 March at 2pm. There will also be perennials, polyanthus, pansies, cakes and preserves for sale. Show schedules can be obtained from the village shops or a Society member. Do 'have a go'. The show is open for anyone to enter.

Show Classes

Class 1 3 daffodils or narcissi, single flower, mixed or one variety

Class 2 3 tulips, any type or variety

Class 3 3 miniature tulips, and species

Class 4 3 daffodils or narcissi, multi-headed, mixed or one variety

Class 6 5 stems cultivated primroses

Class 7 3 miniature daffodils or narcissi, single-headed, mixed or one variety

Class 8 5 stems polyanthus

Class 9 3 miniature daffodils or narcissi, multi-headed, mixed or one variety

Class 10 6 pansies, mixed or one variety

Class 11 3 miniature daffodils or narcissi, double flower, mixed or one variety

Class 12 A vase of hellebores

Class 13 Specimen bloom – daffodil or narcissus

Class 14 A vase of mixed cut Spring flowers, excluding shrubs

Class 15 An arrangement of Spring flowers and foliage

Class 16 A vase of flowering shrubs

Class 17 An Easter exhibit, 24" x 24", using any material

Class 18 A limerick about Spring

Children's Classes

Class 1 A bunch of Spring flowers in a jam jar

Class 2 Decorated flower pot

Class 3 A painting of 'The Easter Bunny'

Class 4 Garden on a plate or tray

Class 5 Decorated hard-boiled egg in egg cup

Class 6 An acrostic poem using the word 'FLOWERS'

Class 7 A poem about Spring

An Easter Egg for the winner of each class!

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 14 March

After the annual dinner, what's on the menu this month? It is a bring-your-own picnic lunch, no outside catering, just outdoor eating. Cars to leave 12.30pm prompt for Mordiford, Herefordshire. After eating our picnics, we shall be following Ken Brookes around the Mordiford Loop. The afternoons are getting brighter now so we shouldn't get lost in the dark depths of the woods.

Kate King





Martley WI

**Wednesday 10 March
7.30pm at the Memorial Hall**

Hilary Harrison is the speaker this month, telling of her life and work as a designer of contemporary carpets. We do not think much about what is underfoot and the expertise behind the creation of carpets. Usually, we just grumble about the cost and the mess when mud is trodden into the pile.

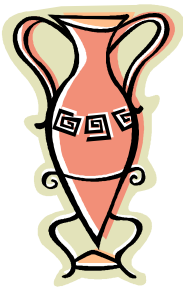
The recent competition for a holiday snap proved very interesting with a good entry. It was an eye-opener to see the many varied locations members had visited.

This month, with Easter near, the competition is for a decorated egg – hard-boiled please.

There is still time to book a place for the outing to Royal Crown Derby on Thursday 29 April. Contact committee members or Gwyn Darby.

Ideas for food and craft items are needed for entries for the Spring Rally in May.

A sub-committee is being formed, so think about it please.



Kate King

Royal British Legion

The January meeting was well attended and the usual reports given. Treasurer John Kirk reported a busy end of RBL year and will be in touch soon with anyone who has not paid their subscription, which remains the same as last year, £13.50.

The branch had also received a bequest from the late Ernie Barry. This was acknowledged with much gratitude and will be used well. Maureen Kings reported on the Service Committee work over Christmas and also on the progress of two members who had recently undergone heart surgery at Stoke-on-Trent Hospital.

Mike Peters was pleased to say that the house-to-house collection for the Poppy Appeal was up this year and thanks everyone who gave and collected.

Social Secretary Thelma Taber reported on progress for the “Burma Railway Story” evening in the Village Hall, Broadwas on 30 January.

In a recent report I mentioned entitlement to service medals and am pleased to hear that those who applied have received them. Wear them with pride!

If you are interested in the work of The Royal British Legion, please contact me or any member known to you.

*Joyce Tyler, Hon Secretary
01886 821551*

Pudford Lane

Congratulations, congratulations! Again, Val Weddell Hall has hit the news, getting an OBE in the New Year's Honours list for services to education. In spite of her modesty in thanking all her family and colleagues, they and Education Chiefs have been united in praising her enthusiasm and expertise.

Well done Natalie Jeffries to become the youngest member in Worcestershire of the Learning and Skills Council. She has previously worked with Malvern District Young Peoples' Group. Her input will be to provide a young person's perspective on careers and training, hopefully making a big difference for future students. All this, as well as working hard for her A levels, with the aim of studying law at Oxford.

After the recent wintry weather, helped by Wally's Waterways, Owens Overflows and the streams running down the lane, we have seen the return of the Pudford Glacier, although not as extensive and long lasting as in previous years.

Pop cans, crisp packets and cigarette packets are among some of the rubbish regularly collected from the lane verges, but the recent dumping of a settee and armchair was really a bit too much. Although some of the residents are of

more mature years, they can usually manage



to get around fairly well without having to take a rest. If an official park for motorised buggies or communal Zimmers is needed in the future, the proper procedures will be followed and planning permission sought from the Parish Council.

Kate King

Welcome!

The following are new residents of Laugherne Park: Steve and Bernadette Manley, Trevor and Elaine Pearce, Charles and Andrea Crossland with children Isabel and Will. The Villager hopes they will enjoy living in Martley.

In the Old Days

St. Peter's Church, Martley

"A walk of two hours through a country rich in pasturage, hops, garden ground, tillage crops, and timber, brought me to the pleasant little village of Martley, situate nearly eight miles north of Worcester.

"The villagers were hastening churchward in obedience to the summons then issuing from the tower; and the school children, in their neat Sunday attire, were pouring down from their new school house, winding round the parsonage garden, and the foremost of them reaching the old wooden porch of their old parish church.

"The choir, consisting of rustic voices and instruments, did their part pretty smoothly in a variety of tunes which I

cannot but fancy are indigenous to and have never escaped beyond this parish. The custom prevails here, as in some other primitive places, to chalk on a slate the psalms to be sung, and hang it over the gallery for the information of the flock below. This is a very convenient custom at Martley, where no one can hear the clerk.

At the close of the services I stayed behind to inspect the old church; it consists of a chancel, nave, and western tower, containing a peal of six musical bells.....”

The Rambler in Worcestershire, John Noake (1848)

Grub Club

If you are interested in the idea of: catching the Parish Link minibus in good company, in to Worcester one Thursday evening a month – then having a meal in good company for two hours or more and afterwards returning in good company to Martley by Parish Link minibus, call 888398, and let me know.

Dave Cropp

Ted Ledbury

Mrs Barbara Ledbury and Family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and lovely cards in our sad loss. Many thanks for the lovely flowers and donations, and to all who attended the funeral.

God bless you all.

Barbara

Martley Spurs

The new year started with all three teams losing their matches at home and away. However, they did make up for it the next weekend in a series of cup ties. The Saturday eleven beat Henwick Academicals 4 - 3, Chris Collins netting a couple. The Sunday Premier side beat Express 88 3 - 2 in the quarter final of the Katherine Rayer Cup and the Reserves shone when they thrashed Pillar of Salt 7 - 1 in their Bernard Finnegan Cup game.

While both Sunday games were postponed on the 18th, the Saturday boys lost to Bretforton Old Boys. The 24th saw the Saturday side get points when they beat Langland 3 - 0, a pair of which netted by Mike Fellows. The Sunday teams did not do so well both losing their games. The snow and rain played havoc with pitches all over the country over the last weekend of the month and all three of the Spurs' features were postponed.

We will be holding an Easter Bingo in early April so please keep your eyes open for details in posters around the villages.

Beth Williams

Barn Dance in Martley Village Hall

A wild and blustery night was the setting for our barn dance on Saturday 31 January. The evening's musical entertainment was provided by the Wuster Waites with Eve Evans and

her husband John, but the real stars of the evening were the people who braved the weather, fallen trees and power cuts to join us for what was a great evening of dancing and music.

There was lots of laughter and some interesting interpretations of Eve's dance instructions. Harry King was honoured with 'man of the match' and one lady even lost the heel of her shoe during a dance but this all added up to a great evening for everyone who took part. Nelly Bradley did a great job in selling raffle tickets which made £42.00 for the evening and thank you to those who kindly donated all the prizes. At 'half time' we all enjoyed a ploughman's supper and well deserved rest before drawing the raffle and continuing with the dancing. Our thanks go to John Woolley for manning the bar, Jack and Nelly Bradley and Jenny Underhill who conjured up some fantastic flower arrangements for the stage. This was our first event for the Village Hall, but most people came from outside Martley. Sadly, the lack of support from the village has meant that although we raised £42.00 on the raffle, we actually made a loss of £10.11 on ticket sales. However, all those who attended said that the evening was a great success and we would therefore hope that if another barn dance is held it might be better-supported by the people of Martley.

Helen Coombey-Jones

Martley Library Link @ *Martley Memorial Hall*

Martley's very own Library Link is due to open shortly. Available for you to borrow will be a selection of popular fiction (including large print), non-fiction and children's books. Also available will be two computers offering free Internet access and Microsoft Office software.



The Library Link is also your gateway, via the catalogue, to the entire stock held by

Worcestershire County Libraries, so if you see something you want you can reserve it and it will sent to Martley Library Link for you to collect.

If you are already a member of a library, you can use your ticket here. If not, then joining couldn't be easier! Just bring something with you that has your name and address on it for identification purposes and one of our friendly Library Volunteers will provide you with a ticket.

Interested? Then look out for the further publicity coming soon giving opening

t i m e s .
W e ' l l
l o o k
f o r w a r d
t o s e e i n g
y o u



Martley in 1736

During February, John Nicklin went to the County Record Office to see them use their fancy new camera to photograph the 1736 map of Worcestershire. It is hoped that it will then be possible to reproduce the map and have copies available for sale and on display in prominent locations such as the village hall and the church. It should compliment the WI Millennium map well.

Just a Visit

By the time you read this, Martley will have been visited by the Daily Telegraph who have been researching an article and a study of sustainable housing in rural communities. As well as seeing Martley's Hastings Close, and meeting residents of Heaton House, in the company of Alan Sanders from MHDC, they also visited the housing project in Clifton-upon-Teme, with time for a lunch at The Talbot.

Martley Parish Councillors met them and discussed issues around the provision of affordable housing - so important nationally if we are to have thriving, rather than ageing, rural communities.

Martley Parish Plan

After our first ten-theme survey, and also our full survey of housing needs, we will soon want to begin to work on a Parish Plan which will be developed

with Malvern Hills District Council and Worcester County Council. We would like to involve as many people as possible in the initial planning so that it is not just Parish Council run. The themes are: housing and the built environment, service provision, environment and heritage, employment, transport, older people, younger people, a safe community, agriculture and possibly other themes suggested from the community itself. The Parish Plan will direct issues about Martley from 2011 onwards.

In due course all residents of Martley will have the opportunity to add comment via house-to-house surveys. If you are interested in being involved in any theme or have ideas that you consider it important for consideration, please let your Parish Council know, either through the Clerk, or via a Parish Councillor.

Martley Online

The "small ads" page has produced world-wide interest! One advert has received responses from as far afield as New Zealand (and you can't get much further than that) and requests for information about repairing similar items—the advertiser is hoping that someone will pay his travelling expenses for delivery!

Coming soon: reminiscences and pictures of Lusty's factory on the Maylite estate. The furniture is now made in—you guessed it—China.

Michelle Higgins



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Wichenford Ladies Fellowship

January saw us gathering together at the home of Mrs Jo Root. Three members celebrated January birthdays – Mrs Joan Banks, Mrs Millie Pargeter and Mrs Jo Root. News of Mrs Dora Williams was encouraging, and it is hoped she will soon be back home again after a long spell in hospital and convalescent home. Mrs Pam Webb led the prayers and Mrs Jo Root provided tasty refreshments.

We were pleased to welcome a surprise visit from Mrs Penny Welmans, who had flown from her new home in Binningup, Australia, to see her new grand-daughter, Lily Rose. We then settled to planning our programme for 2004, which promises to be both interesting and varied – more details over the coming months. Remember, new members and visitors are always welcome to join us on the third Tuesday afternoon in the month.

Wichenford Church

Flowers

March is Lent, so no flowers throughout the month.



**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

Brasses

Mrs J Andrews

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 5 March.

A service will be held at Wichenford at 2pm, the speaker will be Mrs A Birkmyre. So come and join us in this worldwide service, which is written by a different country's women each year and arranged locally by a small and very loyal group of ladies.

Annual Church Meeting

Monday 29 March at 7.30pm in Wichenford Church.

This is the opportunity for all concerned with our Church to hear reports on various matters, including finance, and to elect Wardens and Officers for 2004. So, if you have any suggestions or questions about the Church services etc, this is your chance.

Confirmation

Justin Passey, grandson of Mr & Mrs Ledbury was confirmed in January at Martley Church. Welcome Justin into our Church Family.

A thought for the month: Let us become a better people, and the reform of all the public grievances will follow of itself. *Samuel Coleridge.*

Well Done, Dale

On 14 September at the Lower Wick swimming pool, Dale-Jaime Matthews swam just over a mile, which is more than 81 lengths of the pool. She raised £181 for the Nora Parsons Day Centre. Congratulations – what a wonderful achievement.

Edward Ballinger Ledbury (Ted)

We were so sorry to hear that Ted had died and send our deepest sympathy to his wife Barbara, to Alison and Simon, and to all the family. Ted had lived in Wichenford for many years and was a much-respected member of our community. He will be sadly missed. A tribute will follow later.

Wedding Congratulations



26 January 2004.
John Howell to
Harriet Vicki
Roberts both of
Woodhouse Farm
Wichenford.

Baby News

We are delighted to report the arrival of two beautiful babies - Matthew John, son of William and Sasha Pearce, and also Harry Joseph, the son of Roger Pound and Sam, a brother for Jack and William. Congratulations to both families.

Letter from Isabel Field

“I write to thank my friends of Wichenford Church, the Ladies Fellowship and the Ladies Circle for their kindness to me during my long stay in the Nursing Home and the hospitals. I greatly appreciate their visits, gifts and the support of their prayers. I’m glad to say I am now home and feel much improved, and look forward to being with you all again soon. Isabel”



Things our Mothers used to Say

Domestic skills – oh, so tactful! *It’ll be better when it’s pressed – no one will notice – perhaps you could dye it – a scarf would help – do you think that colour is quite right? And finally – here, let me do it.*



Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

An Ordinary Meeting of the parish council was held on Monday 5 January 2004 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, Wichenford.

Three parishioners attended the meeting to support the action taken by the Parish Council on the use of Guises Lane and Rosses Lane. The chairman explained that the Council are pushing hard for the law to change, but these things move very slowly. The County Ecologist will be visiting these sites soon to make a report. A question was also raised regarding the hard core to be put on Kings Green to create an all-weather access and prevent any more damage to the green. The chairman explained that the County Council has agreed to do it when they have the money.

Reports

County Councillor B Hickling reported to the Parish Council that Christmas cards may be recycled at Tesco Stores. The Christopher Whitehead school project development: a planning enquiry is scheduled to last for eight days and is starting on 18 May. The County Council has been measured “good” in the way it serves people. District Councillor B Williams explained that the draft Malvern Hills local plan will be deposited to parish councils on 16 January. Councillor Williams asked if we had had any correspondence from the District Council regarding the

refuse lorries using Barbers Lane. The clerk explained that a reply to her letter had been received and she had also contacted the Highways Dept at Worcestershire County Council about the damage being done to the road surface.

Matters arising

Nora Parsons Day Centre: Councillor Stinton had read the correspondence regarding the day centre and, although the Parish Council own the lease, it appeared that the two committees cannot be combined as each has a different job to do. There should be four representatives from the parish council on the management committee.

Affordable Housing Needs. The Parish Council felt that there was nothing further to discuss on this matter. Parish Lengthsmen Scheme: the clerk had been in contact with Worcestershire County Council and CALC. A letter was written to Mike Davis at the County Council explaining that we were interested in the scheme. The Parish Council needs to decide the amount of money they are prepared to contribute to the scheme. After discussion it was agreed to contribute £50. Elm Green, Kings Green and Laugherne Corner: the clerk and Councillor Rendall have had several conversations with Malvern Hills District Council and Worcestershire County Council regarding the registration. Malvern Hills have got them wrongly-registered and need to alter their computer records, but first

they need convincing before they will do it. The County Council have got them registered correctly. A common has bye-laws and a village green is controlled by the Parish Council.

Planning

You can now keep in touch with the progress of planning applications by going on www.malvern hills.gov.uk

Decisions made by MHDC: Demolishing existing farmhouse and constructing new replacement dwelling and garage at Allsett Farm, Broadwas has been refused. Carport for use in connections with residential barn conversion at Allsetts Farm, Broadwas had been granted. Manege at Bushy Ground, Ockeridge has been passed.

Applications received for comment. Since the last meeting, the Parish Council has been discussing the following applications: change of use of existing attached garage to home office for Orchard Cottage, Rosses Lane. The Parish Council has no objection to this proposal. The conversion of a garage to a Granny Flat and shower room extension at Poplar Cottage, Poplar Road. The Parish Council had concerns regarding this application. They do not want it to set a precedent for future applications. Relocation of farm buildings at Rimmers Farm. The Parish Council fully endorse this application, provided that slurry and foul water run-off do not affect the brook.

Finance

The clerk was authorised to pay the

following: Clement Keys External Audit. The completion of the audit for 31 March 2003 has been advertised on the notice boards. The clerk was asked to pay the external audit fee of £141. CPRE Quiet Lanes book, £5. Rogers Coaches. The ticket system has proved to be very successful and much more cost effective. The Parish Council agreed to continue with this system and pay the sum of £39.52. Wichenford Churchyard: a donation of £300 was given to the churchyard. Wichenford Memorial Hall: the Parish Council gave the Memorial Hall £500 in August 2002, and it was decided to give a contribution at a later date, as money would be needed for a new central heating boiler.

Proposed Budget. Councillor Rendall and the clerk explained the budget in detail to the Council. The clerk's salary and hours were discussed, and it was agreed to keep the salary the same, but increase the hours from five to six. Precept. After examination of the proposed budget it was unanimously agreed by the Council to keep the precept at £6,000 (six thousand pounds).

Parish Council Co-option

Two candidates had applied for the vacancy and the CVs were in the correspondence folder for everyone to read. Councillors were asked to tick the appropriate box. The papers were counted and Mr Nigel Oldfield was announced the winner.

Highways

A start-up grant from Worcestershire

County Council for the upkeep of the parish footpaths and bridleways has been applied for.

Correspondence

The clerk asked if the bottom branches of the trees on the village green could be cut off as they are very low and it is difficult to walk underneath when they are in leaf. She was asked to get a quote and report at the next meeting. Councillor Wells agreed to weatherproof the bus shelter. They also thanked him for replacing the litterbin and asked him to take the old one away.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Date and venue of next meetings:

29 March and 10 May, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Both meetings will be held in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford.

*Shirley Sanders, Clerk to the Council
(01886-888302)*

Notice

Several complaints have been received regarding parishioners security lights. Could you please make sure your outside lights are positioned facing downwards, as when shining brightly at night, they are dangerous to on-coming vehicles on adjacent roads because they shine into the eyes of the drivers.

Wichenford 100 Club

January winner: Ken Amos. Ticket no 74. £110.

Millennium Green Tidying & Inspection Rota

March: Mervyn Mitchard.

Knightwick and District Trefoil Guild

We met at The Old Rectory for the A.G.M. on 27 January. We will be leading the service for the County Thinking Day celebrations in Droitwich on 21 February. Thinking Day, 22 February, is the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden Powell, the founder members of the Girl Guide Movement. Each year we "THINK" of Guides around the world. It was reported that the money collected in lieu of Christmas cards within the Guild amounted to £44 and it has been donated to The Lee Sykes Centre in Bromyard. All the officers were re-elected. Chairman - Jenny Barton; Vice Chairman - Chris Fletcher; Treasurer - Sylvia Jeffreys; Secretary - Sue Ganderton; P.R. - Geraldine Cooper.

Knightwick Trefoil Guild will be celebrating 50 years of fellowship this year. We have yet to decide what form the celebrations will take. At our February meeting we plan an evening of poetry and prose, chosen and read by the members.

Phyllis Bowlcott will host our March meeting in Much Cowarne, when her daughter Jean Park will talk about her life in Guiding here and abroad.

Geraldine Cooper.

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 and 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 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 15 March at Abberley Village Hall 7.30pm and run for four weeks with a fifth day for an apiary meeting (outdoors).

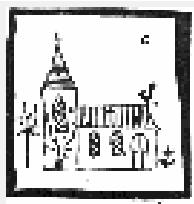
The cost will be £15 per person and will include two months free use of a bee suit and gloves (then if you are not totally hooked it hasn't cost you much).

EXTRA

Graham Law (Deputy Director of the National Space Laboratory) will give a talk on Living with Bees. He has a wall of his house filled with a bee colony and covered with glass. The talk is on Sat 13 March at 2.30pm Abberley Village hall. Please come along, you won't get stung!

Please contact either: Secretary, Stuart Smith (01299) 896894 email: hillheadfm@aol.com or Chairman, Richard Jackman (01886) 821237 email: beeman@theberrow.co.uk





Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Keeping fit is a very important part of our busy lives. The gym, the sports hall, cycling, jogging, aerobics, or perhaps a few exercises at home, each will have their preference and programmes designed to improve health and fitness. As we move into the season of Lent, we are challenged to assess our spiritual fitness, which is just as important as our physical fitness. But what does this involve? Spiritual disciplines involve prayer, bible study, fasting and self denial. All this is to enable us to draw closer to God and be more 'fit' to serve him. None of these disciplines in themselves earns us a ticket to heaven, that's a free gift from Jesus, but it does enable us to get the most out of our journey. St. Paul in 1 Corinthians ch. 9 v. 24-27, likens our walk with God to that of an athlete or boxer. He says that athletes go into strict training for a prize that does not last but the Christian competes for an everlasting prize. He may have taken a few punches like a boxer and sometimes he was down but not out, but he still keeps 'fighting the good fight'. He also saw it as a race for which he presses on to the goal set before him, the finishing line when Christ will present us with winner's crown, for in God's Kingdom we are all winners.

Revd. David Sherwin

Services for March:

7 March	
Wichenford	9.30am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Family Service
Broadwas	11am Matins
Knightwick	8am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	6.30pm Evensong
15 March	
Wichenford	10.0am Family Service
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Cotheridge	8am Holy Communion
21 March	Mothering Sunday
Wichenford	4pm Evening Worship
Martley	8am Holy Communion; 11am Morning Worship
Broadwas	10am Family Worship
Cotheridge	9am Matins
Knightwick	3pm Evening Worship
28 March	
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
Broadwas	8am Holy Communion; 11am Family Service

Other dates for your diary

Mothering Sunday services of worship at 11.00am, 3.00pm, and 4.00pm at Martley, Broadwas, Knightwick, and Wichenford are special services to celebrate Mothering Sunday. Do come and join us for this special day.

Palm Sunday, 4 April 11.00am, will once again be held at Laylocks Garden Centre, when we shall celebrate this special day with the help of their Donkey. We had a fantastic day last year and hope many will join us for this years celebrations.

Confirmations: Congratulations to Justin Passey, Alex Smith, Ed Brew, Jaron Winter Tear and Peter and James Bullock along with others from across the deanery were confirmed by the Bishop of Dudley, David Walker on Sunday 25 January. They are all part of our joint benefice youth **group** which meets on Sunday nights 6.30pm-8.00pm. if you would like to come ring Becky on 01886 888664.

Adult Alpha will be starting after Easter, if you are interested in joining the group contact Red. David Sherwin 01886 888664.



*If you need help or advice,
contact your*

Member of Parliament:

Sir Michael Spicer MP

Personal and Private

Interviews

Saturday 27 March 2004

Martley Village Hall, 9.30am

For further information

please call: 01684 573469 or

visit www.sirmichaelspicer.net

Another Evening with Brian Draper

**An illustrated talk on the flora
and fauna of the geology of the
River Severn (Part 2)**

**Weds. 31 March
7.30pm Wichenford Memorial
Hall**

**Light refreshments
Raffle**

**£3 on the door.
Proceeds to the upkeep of
the hall**



In the Kitchen



Shropshire Fidget Pie

As some people claim not to have watched Midlands Today, here is the recipe!

You will need:

4 x gammon rashers
4 x large potatoes, 4 x English onions
4 x cooking apples
2 x tablespoons brown sugar
salt, pepper to taste
Meat stock (about 1/4 pint or so)
Egg (for pastry top)
About 1/2 lb shortcrust pastry

1. Preheat oven to 170 C and butter the dish you're going to use.
2. Peel and roughly slice the potatoes. Slice the onions fairly thinly. Peel and rough cut the cooking apples. Cut the rind and fat off the gammon rashers, and cut the rashers into rough chunks.
3. Layer ingredients in pie dish, adding sugar bit by bit to layers, and a dash of seasoning each layer, finishing with sugar and seasoning on top. Add stock - but not too much - just enough to moisten..
4. Roll out pastry and cover the pie dish, use half the beaten egg to glaze.
5. Bake for about 45 minutes, then

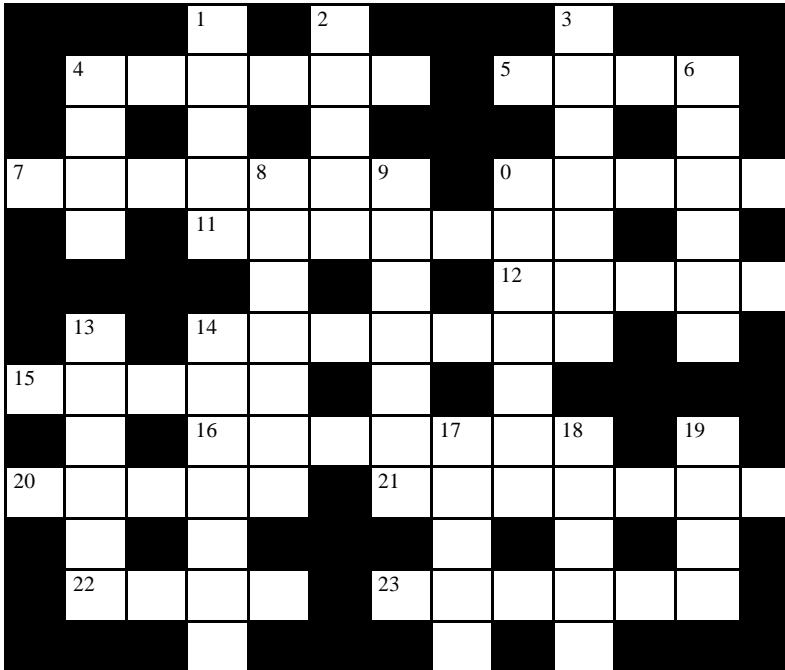
egg glaze the top again. Bake for about another 15 mins.

6. Take the pie out of the oven and wrap around with damp newspaper (I kid you not - Berrow's Journal or the Worcester Standard will do just fine) - bake for another 30 minutes or so.
7. Take out of the oven, leave to stand and cool completely, then leave in fridge- allows flavours to develop - reheat thoroughly before eating.

News from the Chantry High School

The Friends of the Chantry High School, parents, teachers and pupils are always working to raise funds. The next event is a Quiz Night at the school on Friday 19 March. Teams are 6, but if you don't have a full team join with others to make a 6'er. Bring your own food and drink - no corkage! £5 per person. Contact Gina on 01886 821998. Money raised in 2004 will fund a project proposed by the pupils. Details of the project will be published soon. **Update on Specialist School Bid:** The school has raised £41,000, but we need £9,000 of pledges to reach the target for a March bid to go ahead. Business sponsorship is a big part of this, so if you have a business and can pledge, no matter how small, please help. The extra government money that will be made available to Chantry as a Technology Specialist School is considerable and will make a great difference across all subjects.

Tea-break



CLUES ACROSS

4. PLACE OF WORSHIP
5. LATIN FOR GOD (4)
7. BOOK USED IN CHURCH (7)
10. WORSHIP AS A GOD (5)
11. FEARED (7)
12. CARD GAME (5)
14. BURNS UNSTEADILY (7)
15. ATTRACTIVENESS (5)
16. CONSIDER GOOD (7)
20. QUANTITIES PLOTTED AGAINST AXES (5)
21. END OF THE DAY (7)
22. NOT OF THE CLERGY (4)
23. EARTH (6)

CLUES DOWN

1. BROTHERHOOD (5)
2. SLOPE OF LOOSE STONES (5)
3. CHURCH SCREEN (7)
4. LAWSUIT (4)

6. '.....' LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME (6)
8. REJOICE OVER A VICTORY (7)
9. ECSTASY (7)
10. TAKE FROM (7)
13. SUNG (6)
14. EXPLICIT (7)
17. OPEN (5)
18. FOLLOW (5)
19. WOMAN'S NAME (4)

Answers to February crossword

- ACROSS: 1.RATES 4.SERVICE 8.INTENSE
 9.ETHIC 10.CAME 11.ALB 12.FROM 15.DEAD
 16.FAST 18.APSE 19.STY 20.MAGI 24.IMAGE
 25.BIRETTA 26.NARRATE 27.GORSE
 DOWN: 1.REINCARNATION 2.TOTEM 3.SONG
 4.SHELLS 5.RUED 6.INHERIT
 7.EXCOMMUNICATE 13.MAD 14.BAT
 15.DESPAIR 17.STABLE 21.ALTAR 22.BETA
 23.TRUG

In the Garden



Garden Tips for March

March, the month when many plants resume new growth and the new gardening season gets under way. Onion sets, broad bean seed and peas can be planted and shallots can be set out. In the latter part of the month carrot, onion, parsnip and beetroot seed can be sown in the garden.

Sow in the greenhouse, or where some protection can be provided, the seed of cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce and celery. These can be pricked out into modules when large enough. Sow tomato seed, which must be kept in a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees F. Plant potatoes that should have developed good, strong shoots.

Prune hardy fuchsia, spiraea, buddleia and Winter jasmine. New shoots of chrysanthemums can be taken for propagating on into new plants. If you wish to increase your snowdrops, now is the time to split them up into small lots and transplant them, while the leaves are still green. Bulbs – plant gladioli, remove faded heads from daffodils, but do not remove leaves until they turn yellow. Fruit trees – put moisture retaining material such as well rotted manure or compost around

the roots of trees after feeding them with a good balanced fertiliser. Plant raspberries and strawberries.

Jack Bradley

Cat Tails

I had three cats on my bed last night, so I had to bend myself around them in an impossible position to even lie down. Two did eventually get the hint, as I kept moving, causing *them* to lose sleep, so they've been catatonic this morning. It's a hard life!



AH

Advertise in The Villager

For information about advertising in The Villager or inserting flyers, contact Neil Stammers, Advertising Manager, on 01886 888513.

Advertising rates (per 12 months):

1/8 page	£45
1/4 page	£80
1/2 page	£145
Fliers	£12 to £15

To advertise on the Martley website www.martley.org.uk, email webmaster@martley.org.uk.