

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 11 No. 12

May 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 2.30pm Martley Memorial Hall

For Church services, please see Church News

Mon 5 **May Day Bank Holiday**

Sun 11 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers to Clifton
Meet 2pm Church car park

Mon 12 **Martley Parish Council Meeting**
8pm Memorial Hall

Wed 14 **Martley WI: Resolutions meeting** 7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall
Citizens Advice Bureau: 12-1pm Great Witley Surgery and 1.30-2.30pm Knightwick Surgery - by appointment. Tel. 01584 810860

Thu 15 **Meeting of The Wine Club** 8pm Wichenford Memorial Hall

Sun 18 **Open Garden at 1 Prickley Bungalows, Hockhams Lane** 2-6pm in aid of The National Gardens Scheme

Tue 20 **Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship** outing to Bodenham Arboretum 2pm

Sat 24 **Martley Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale** 2pm Memorial Hall

Mon 26 **Spring Bank Holiday**



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 3 march 2003 at the Memorial Hall (Mr B Draper MBE - Chairman)

Matters Arising

a) Lengthman. The Parish Lengthman is working well. Councillors should list necessary jobs and pass instructions to the Parish Clerk.

b) Repainting of the Bus Shelter Postponed until summer. Raising the Public Noticeboard will cost £20.00, to be discussed later.

c) Willow Road. It is planned to review the need for verge cones.

d) Library & Cyber Café. Talks were held with the architect and capital funding bodies.

e) Monthly Free Bus. Mrs Seabright spoke to passengers. It was proposed by Mr D Cropp that seats be available for any Martley parishioner for a trial period. Mr G Taylor seconded this and the motion passed without dissent. The agreement of Wichenford Parish Council must be sought before this trial is implemented.

f) Refuse Vehicle. The six-wheeled refuse vehicle is still causing problems in Barbers Lane. Efforts continue to obtain a smaller vehicle.

Parish Matters

Mr King complained about potholes in Pudford Lane. Road works are scheduled but the date is unknown.

Reports

Mr A Davies (CC) reported a 12.9%

rate increase. The County Council did not support a Regional Assembly or Referendum. Mrs B Williams (DC) reported a 4% District Rate increase that would have been lower but for the increase in National Insurance. Zigzags have been painted on the road by the Martley Schools to assist with highway safety. It was agreed to renew the Parish Paths Partnership Agreement for 2003/04.

Martley Recreation Association Insurance

Mr Taylor explained that the Insurance premiums for the pavilion and playing field had increased. The Association asked if the Parish Council, as owners of the playing field, could obtain a cheaper premium or provide some subsidy. Mr Taylor will provide the Clerk with details and will contact the Parish Council Insurers.

Risk Assessment & Best Value Procedure for 2002/2003

The Parish Council checklist for Risk Assessment was discussed. As regards Best Value procedure, the changes made to the agenda last year are working well. Mid-month planning applications will in future be discussed and finalised at 10.00 a.m. in the Weighbridge building on the second Saturday of each month. Details will be displayed in advance on the Parish Noticeboard.

Planning

a) Applications for comment:

Endways, Hockhams Lane - replacement dwelling & extension. Concern has been expressed as to its visibility and the possibility of reflection from the expanse of glass. The Parish Council appreciates it is an imaginative design, which if approved requires proper screening. *Ankers, Hipplecote* - amended access to B4197. No objections. *Land at Berrow Green* - irrigation pool and Poly Tunnels. No objections. *Bearwood, Hillside* - bedroom & lounge extension. No objections. *Field, Hope House Lane*, 15 metre mast & dish for Orange. The monomast is sited well back from the road and there were no convincing objections to this permitted development.

b) Applications approved by MHDC: *Ankers, Hipplecote* - change of use from agricultural to domestic land and erection of double garage. *Poolfield Cottage, Wants Green* - Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of stables and garage. *Ankers, Hipplecote* - garden decking & structure (retrospective). *Hillcrest, 1 Collins Green* - single storey rear extension. *The Old Smithy, Hillside* - balcony. *Ivy Glen, Hillside* - single storey extension to form Orchid House. *Orchard Cottage, Newtown* - single storey side extension.

c) Applications rejected by MHDC: *Brook Court, Horn Lane* - barn & 3 holiday cottages. *Quarry Farm, Hillside* (Listed Building) part demolition & extension.

Finance 9 cheques for £1,964.64 were

presented and agreed.

a) Register of Electors: A restricted Register of Electors for Martley has 935 names and addresses but the edited Register, which can be seen by the public, has only 647 names and costs £12.50. The Councillors decided that it was not worth buying one.

b) Neighbourhood Watch: There was a meeting of co-ordinators at Abberley Village Hall on the 20 March 2003. It was agreed that drivers taking co-ordinators should be paid 50p a mile by the Parish Council.

Correspondence

Notification was received from Worcestershire County Council Highways of roads in the parish to be closed for repairs. The Chairman had received a letter of resignation from Cecil Vyvyan-Robinson who has been Parish Clerk for the last 6 years. His replacement, yet to be recruited, will take over as from the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 2 June 2003.

Councillors' Reports & Items For Future Agendas

Mr Cropp reported progress on the Transport Consortium of 5 local parishes now bidding for grants of £10,000.00 for each of 3 years. This will provide flexi-buses for evening and late return buses to Worcester and possibly Malvern on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The next meeting, the AGM, is on Monday 12 May 2003 at 8.00 p.m..

C C Vyvyan-Robinson
Parish Clerk (01886 821623)

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

www.martley.org.uk



Martley WI

14 May at 7.30pm Memorial Hall

Times have been busy for members recently. Hilary Harrison has joined us and we hope she will enjoy many years of fun and friendship with us. Plans are in hand for entries for the Food, Flower and Craft Day this month and some members enjoyed a talk and demonstration on Lacemaking by Helen Coombey-Jones. Hopefully, classes will be run in the autumn. Watch this space.

Mr Harrington certainly proved his point that London is stranger than fiction when telling us about Westminster Bridge fizzing in the rain and the “wrong” bridge being bought for export to California for £2.5m. It was a fascinating talk with slides of most unexpected places and brought back memories for some members of working life in the City.

This is Resolutions month when we can all have our say for the AGM in Royal Albert Hall in June. The competition is for a short poem. No rude limericks, please.

Kate King

Martley Ramblers

11 May 2pm Church Car Park

Leaders have been more careful recently and no more Ramblers have been lost. In fact, some new members have joined us, facing the risks with open minds. The recent walk around Old Storridge, led by David Wilkes, was mainly mud free and around a very interesting mixture of fields, woodland and orchards. The walk this month is around Clifton, led by Pauline and Ray Ellis. Cars leave car park at 2pm.

Kate King

Martley & District Horticultural Society

The Society held their fifth Spring Show in the Village Hall. There were 89 entries. Results of the classes were as follows:

Class 1 – 3 Daffodils or Narcissi, single flower, mixed or one variety: 1st Sylvia Jeffries, 2nd Tony Kirby, 3rd Barbara Kirby.

Class 2 – 3 Tulips, any type or variety: 1st Barbara Kirby, 2nd Margaret Jackson.

Class 3 – 3 Daffodils or Narcissi, double flower, mixed or one variety: 1st Judith O’Leary, 2nd Margaret Jackson, 3rd Pam Spokes.

Class 4 – 3 Miniature Tulips, any species: 1st Joy Snow, 2nd Rosie Pennell, 3rd Margaret Jackson.

Class 5 – 3 Daffodils or Narcissi, multiheaded, mixed or one variety: 1st Barbara Kirby, 2nd Judith O’Leary, 3rd Sylvia Jeffries.

Class 6 – 5 stems cultivated Primroses: 1st Pam Minchin, 2nd Sylvia Jeffries, 3rd Sacha Pearce.

Class 7 – 3 Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, single headed, mixed or one variety: 1st Mary Hylan, 2nd Barbara Kirby, 3rd Joy Snow.

Class 8 – 5 stems Polyanthus: 1st Pam Spokes, 2nd Margaret Jackson.

Class 9 – 3 miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, multiheaded, mixed or one variety: 1st Joy Snow.

Class 10 – 6 Pansies, mixed or one variety: 1st Barbara Kirby, 2nd Margaret Jackson.

Class 11 – 3 Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, double flower, mixed or one variety: 1st Judith O’Leary, 2nd Margaret Jackson.

Class 12 – One cut bloom from a bulb: 1st Patricia Turner, 2nd Margaret Jackson, 3rd Judith O’Leary.

Class 13 – Specimen bloom, Daffodil or Narcissi: 1st Patricia Turner, 2nd Mary Hylan, 3rd Pam Spokes.

Class 14 – A vase of 5 mixed cut Spring flowers, excluding shrubs: 1st Margaret Jackson, 2nd Barbara Kirby, 3rd Pam Spokes.

Class 15 – An arrangement of Spring flowers 18” x 18”: 1st Sylvia Jeffries.

Class 16 – An arrangement of flowering shrubs 24” x 24”: 1st

Margaret Jackson, 2nd Barbara Kirby.

The “Jack Bradley” trophy awarded to the person gaining the highest number of points in the show went to Margaret Jackson. The children’s section of the show failed to create great interest this year. However Rory and Molly O’Donnell entered the “Decorated hard boiled egg in egg cup” class. Both received an Easter Egg.

Not long now before the Society’s Annual Plant Sale and Car Boot Sale. It will be held in the Village Hall and on the playing field on **Saturday 24 May at 2pm**. If you have any surplus flower or vegetable plants would you like to donate them to the Society? They would be appreciated. Please bring them to the hall on the morning of the sale.

The Honorary County Organiser for the National Gardens Scheme, Judy Berrow, gave an illustrated talk to the Society at their March meeting. The slides featured many of the popular gardens in the Worcestershire and surrounding area. Money raised from the scheme supports a variety of nursing organisation including Macmillan, Marie Curie, Caring Carers and the Nurses Welfare Service to name but a few. Members were interested to learn that several local gardens were open to the public under the garden scheme on certain days. On Sunday 8 June there is a coach trip to Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens. The coach will leave Martley Village Hall at 1.30pm. If you would like to join us, please ring the Society’s

Secretary Judith O'Leary, Tel: 01886-888253 for details.

The Royal British Legion

Knightswick, Broadwas & Cotheridge with Martley

The March meeting was well attended and another new member welcomed. Various items of business and correspondence were discussed including an invitation to apply for tickets to attend the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall, London on 8 November. Over the years the Branch has been well represented at this occasion. Social secretary Thelma Taber is hoping to organise a skittles evening in the not too distant future, so watch this space. The May meeting will be on the 12 May, the first Monday being a Bank Holiday.

*Joyce Tyler, Hon Secretary
01886-821551*

Martley Spurs

March certainly was not the best of months for any of our three teams. Not much went on over the first weekend but the Reserves did beat Malvern Premier 3-2, two of which were netted by Phil Edwards. The following weekend the same side managed to lose 7-0 to The Bridge and the Katherine Rayer Cup semi-final saw the Spurs lose 2-0 to New Chequers. Moving on to the middle of the month, more bad news when the Reserves - even when scoring three times -

managed to allow Cutnall Green to get past their goalie four times. The other two teams had no fixtures.

On the 22nd the Saturday Eleven lost to Droitwich Spa, the Sunday Premier side lost to New Chequers while the Reserves drew with Malvern Radar in a goalless match. A spark of light came on the last Saturday of the month, when the Premier side beat Powick by two goals, but the Reserves lost again the next day.

After such a poor scoring month the league tables do not look too cheerful with only the Sunday Premier Eleven holding their own in fourth place.

Beth Williams

Weight Watchers

Weight Watchers opened its doors at Martley Memorial Hall on Tuesday 14 January 2003.

42 new members joined for a variety of reasons. There were those wanting to get rid of the excesses of Christmas, those needing to get healthier, those with long-term weight problems who felt now was the time to act and those who came to learn about healthy eating and healthy lifestyles.

10 weeks later and the numbers are still in the high 30's. Fifteen people have lost over one stone, five of



these have lost over one-and-a-half stone and one person has lost over two stone. All have really joined in and contributed to a fun meeting, which is full of individual successes.

Weight Watchers gives members the successful Time to Eat points programme where everything that is eaten or drunk is given a points value. It consists of four elements:

1. Healthy diet - where no food is banned
2. Group support - with fun and laughter
3. Behavioural change
4. Increased movement

Anyone is welcome if they want to lose 10 pounds or more. Come and join our friendly meeting at 6.30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Memorial Hall.

Jennie Barnes

Martley C.C. League fixtures for May 2003

All games start at 2-00 unless stated.
All Saturday games.

Date	Opponents
May 3	Enville Ist XI home 2 nd XI Away
May 10	Barnard's Green 1 st XI Away 2 nd XI Home
May 17	Lye Ist XI home 2 nd XI Away
May 24	Belbroughton 1 st XI Away 2 nd XI Home
May 31	Victoria and Blakeley Ist XI home 2 nd XI Away

Warning!

The Villager has been informed of a scam which is targeting females in particular. They receive a phone call from someone saying they are from The Post Office asking them to confirm their post code. When this is given, they are told that they are eligible for gift vouchers for their co-operation and they are asked to give their home address in order to receive the vouchers. So far, 90% of women who have provided this information have been burgled, and it is assumed that their homes are empty during office working hours. The police are aware of this scam and the Post Office have confirmed that they are NOT conducting any postcode surveys. Also, if you receive a call from someone who identifies them self as a BT Technician testing the line then asking you to press 90 (nine zero) to complete the test **DON'T PRESS 90** as this give the caller full access to your line, allowing them to place long-distance calls that are then billed to you. **Don't press 90 for anyone.**

Martley CE Primary School

The School Summer Fayre will be held on 28 June from 2pm.



Basil Haines Memorial Fund

It has now been decided to close the Fund on 31 May 2003, so if you haven't managed to go and study the sundial designs in the Church, you've still got time to help us decide – and hopefully make a donation!

Church Special events and services in May June to which you are most welcome

Evensong at Wichenford will this year begin on Sunday 18 May at 6.30pm and will be held each third Sunday of the Month until September, replacing Matins for this period.

Worcester Diocesan Pilgrimage, Worcester Cathedral 5 May from 10.30am onwards led by John Bell of the Iona community. It will be a day of informality and fun for all ages with workshops, activities, walks, tours and worship.

Rogation Sunday 25 May, A Benefice service and picnic will be held at Ridgend Farm Wichenford, the home of John and Sheila Richards.

Ascension Day, Thursday 29 May Holy Communion 7.30pm at St. Peter's Martley.

Sunday 29 June, Ordination of our Curate Jennifer Whittaker at Worcester Cathedral 10.30am followed by a Benefice Lunch and get together with Jennifer and her family and friends at Chantry High School finishing with a service at St. Peter's Martley.

Further information from Revd. David Sherwin, 01886 888664

Curate for the Benefice

You will have noticed from the notices in the April issue of *The Villager* that the Church Benefice is going to have a Curate in the near future.

Jennifer Whittaker will be ordained at the end of June and will be joining us at the end of September. I will ask her to write a little about herself when she arrives, it will be good to receive some help.

I also wrote about the situation in Clifton. Well, it seems that a retired Priest, Rev Gwenllian (Gwen) Giles, will be living in the Rectory at Clifton on a house for duty basis. This will enable us to think through the bigger picture of maintaining ministry in rural areas for the future. We wish both Jennifer and Gwen God's blessing.

Revd. David Sherwin



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

I was fascinated by the TV programme, 'A Country Parish' - about the ministry of a rural clergyman in Wiltshire. Jamie is a man who lives out a similar ministry to myself and, having settled down quickly to rural life was soon making a significant impact. He even did magic tricks!

The last episode dealt with church finance. I felt for him having to ask people to consider giving to the church but the Church, buildings and ministry do cost money, which has to be raised locally. As Jamie challenged, village churches would be sadly missed if they disappeared from rural communities after hundreds of years, but this very real danger exists due to lack of funding. This is one reason why there are fewer full time clergy today.

I doubt the church will disappear for the church is the people, a worshipping community, not the building. "Wherever 2 or 3 meet", Jesus said; "There am I in the midst". I believe the church can and will grow - with God's help! God calls us to follow Him and be his disciples. An active outworking of our Faith is worshipping and giving of ourselves. If we give of ourselves then of course we give what we have in response to God's call upon us. I pray that Jamie, like us, will see growth and the funds needed to continue God's ministry in the countryside.

Let us all play our part in making that so in our own villages and churches.

Rev David Sherwin

Services for May:

4 May	
Wichenford	9.30am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Family Service
Broadwas	11am Matins
Knightswick	8am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	6.30pm Evensong
11 May	
Wichenford	10.0am All Age Service
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Cotheridge	8am Holy Communion
18 May	
Wichenford	6.30pm Evensong
Martley	8am Holy Communion; 11am Morning Worship
Broadwas	11am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	9am Matins
Knightswick	3pm Evening Worship
25 May	
All	11am Rogation Service at Ridgend Farm. Everyone welcome. Bring a picnic for after the service



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Altar Flowers

4 May - Mrs J Root
11 May - Mrs B Whyatt
18 May - Mrs C Wethrall
25 May - Rogation Sunday



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

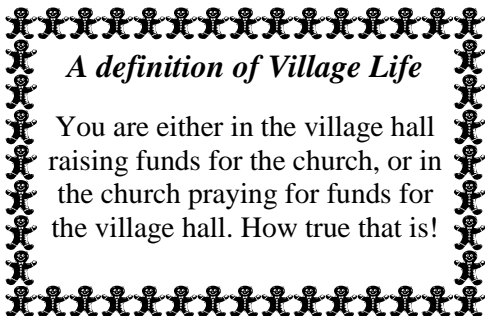
Phone your Wichenford news to Janet or Sheila or leave articles at Martley Post Office or 1 Oxford View Wichenford

Summer Evensong

We start our summer Evensong Services on 18 May, the third Sunday in the month, replacing Matins. We start at 6.30pm. What a peaceful way to end Sunday. Come and try it!

Rogation Sunday

On 25 May Wichenford hosts this year's Rogation Sunday Service at Ridgend Farm, home of Sheila and John Richards at 11am. This is a very enjoyable service for the whole Benefice. Bring a picnic and stay awhile.



A definition of Village Life

You are either in the village hall raising funds for the church, or in the church praying for funds for the village hall. How true that is!

Baby News— Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ann and Trevor Sanders who have become Grandparents. Their son Mark and his wife Anna have a lovely baby boy, Joshua



George Trevor and Ann Sanders of Ruggs Place are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild, a son Joshua George, born to son and daughter in law, Mark and Anna who live in Little Witley.

Ann Sanders

Wichenford Open Gardens

Wichenford gardens will be open to visitors on 5 and 6 July. Lunches and teas will be available. There will also be several stalls, including plants, produce and books. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be willing to open their garden and from people who would like to help or to make cakes. Please phone 01886-888158 or 01886-888431 for further details.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Michael and Pauline Orgee and their children Matthew, Amelia and Jordan. Wishing them happiness in their new home

Appointment of High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant

Heartiest congratulations to Georgina Britten-Long who has become High Sheriff for Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and also Deputy Lieutenant. Georgina follows her father Lt Col Patrick Britten and grandfather Brigadier Charles Britten, who both held this position. We wish Georgina a very happy term of office.

Wichenford Ladies Fellowship

Our March meeting was held at the home of Mrs Dora Williams. Mrs Pam Webb conducted the meeting. We had just heard of the death of Thora Hird, a

much-loved actress and presenter of religious programmes. Mrs Williams read from a book by Thora Hird, who had led such a rich and full life. The prayers, so mindful of the situation in Iraq, were given by Mrs Jo Root. The programme cards were handed to members, and we plan an interesting year. A delicious tea was served by Mrs Dora Williams and Mrs Elsie Whitehead, to which we did justice! A Fellowship outing is taking place on Tuesday 20 May to Bodenham Arboretum and Earth Centre. Meeting at the Memorial Hall at 2pm.

Farewell

We bid farewell to Alan and June Hughes, they will be missed very much in Wichenford. June was a much-appreciated member of the Fete Committee, Treasurer of the Heritage Committee, and she also served on the Memorial Hall Committee and the Harvest Supper Committee. She is indeed a hard act to follow. We wish them happiness in their new home and hope that they will often visit Wichenford.

Baptism

Baptised in St Lawrence's Church, Wichenford, Jeremy Peter Ball, son of David and Anita, brother to Charlotte and Andrew. Welcome into God's family.

Wichenford 100 Club

March winner: Ticket no. 81. Alan Green won £106.

Millennium Green Tidying and Inspection Rota

May: Ray Panton.

Vicki Roberts

Coach Trip to Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens

Sunday 8 June 2003

Martley & District Horticultural Society is organising an outing to Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens near Birmingham. The Coach will leave Martley Village Hall at 1.15pm. returning to Martley at approximately 6.30.p.m. Cost is £8.50 per person and numbers are limited.

Please ring Judith on 888253 to book your seat.

Wichenford Wine Club

Membership of the Wine Club continues to grow. This year we have enjoyed a presentation of Spanish wines by one of our Hallow members and a selection of wines chosen by Patrick Shave from The Hop Pocket in Hereford. We are looking forward to our summer programme which includes an evening of summer wines in a member's garden and an outing to Halfpenny Green Vineyard for a meal and a tasting of their wines.

We meet on the third Thursday of each

month at 8.00.p.m. at Wichenford Village Hall. Some members are complete beginners whilst others really know their Alsace from their Merlot! New members very welcome.

Judith O'Leary

Knighthwick and District Trefoil Guild

We met at The Old Rectory, Knighthwick for our monthly meeting. Members had visited the Lee Sykes national centre in Bromyard, Sue Ganderton reported on the work they do to give children with cerebral palsy the "step up" in life that they richly deserve, without charge. The group were so impressed with what they saw, they were enthusiastic about raising more money for them in the future.

Janet Davis reported on "Sewing for Pleasure" at the NEC where the National Trefoil Guild had a stand. We heard that Trefoil Guilds across the county raised £2000 for The Acorns Hospice.

We welcomed Heather Talbot, County Archivist for the Girl Guides Association. She brought a collection of uniforms dating between 1922-1938. We enjoyed reminiscing and a competition to identify 18 different Guide and Brownie badges—quite a lot of cheating was going on! She was thanked by Pat Bradley.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 22 April 2003 in Clifton-upon-Teme.

Geraldine Cooper

May Day

May Day is of course the first day of the month, and has always been a special day in many parts of the world for various reasons. The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month to the Virgin Mary, so it has Christian connotations, but the word is believed to come from the Greek goddess Maia (the mother of Hermes) or Maia Majesta, an Italian goddess of Spring to whom sacrifices were made to ensure good crop growth.

Nearly all May Day celebrations are remnants of ancient agricultural and fertility rituals. Among the Celtic peoples a festival called Beltane was held on May Day on which bonfires were lit. In the Middle Ages everyone, both of high and low birth, went out very early as Chaucer said, "to fetch the flowers fresh". These were taken indoors at sunrise accompanied by musicians, and then used to decorate their doors and windows. This was known as "bringing home the may", which is probably why hawthorn is also known as may.

Before the Puritans stopped it, the fairest girl in the village was crowned

with flowers as "Queen of the May" and the local people danced and sang around her as she sat on her bower. This is probably a relic of the old Roman celebration when Flora the goddess of flowers and vegetation was worshipped. However the most conspicuous feature of May Day celebrations was the erection of the May Pole. This was decorated with garlands of flowers and danced around for most of the day. Some of these are still to be seen on village greens even to this day.



In much of our modern world May Day celebrations take on a much less romantic air since it is International Labour Day, when the military and workers march and wave red banners through cities all over the world.

Beth Williams

Within the Church

On entering the church I looked around
No one in sight – no noise – not a sound,
Slowly I walked along between the pews
Then down the aisle with reverence due.
Toward the chancel I made my way
To where the clergy kneel and pray.
There, between two candles standing tall
Casting shadows upon the altar wall
I saw a golden cross shining bright
Each resting upon a cloth of white.
Through the window the sun's reflection
Shone down upon the memorial lectern,
While from the roof so high and wide
Suspends a depiction of Jesus crucified.
Inside the nave the marble plaques
Commemorate vicars from the past.
Towards the rear within a corner
Stands a font awaiting Holy Water
To continue baptising a new generation
Welcoming them into the congregation.
I found the church was quiet and warm
So here I decided to make my home,
Behind the sleeping statues at the back
I now reside in my humble habitat,
Grateful to have entered into God's house
To become the proverbial Poor Church Mouse. *Derrick Jinks*



Go West Posters Flood the Teme Valley!

Posters promoting a local tourism project, Go West, are flooding the Teme Valley inspiring people to discover the River Teme. Go West is a church tourism initiative that aims to promote the Teme Valley as a place for quiet exploration and enjoyment. The project invites people to explore the beautiful countryside, the history and the heritage. The posters promote a series of leaflets published by Go West entitled Wanderer's Companions and encourage visitors to stay in the area, use the local pubs, shops and accommodation, contributing to the economy in ways that are sustainable and beneficial. A diary of events is being developed for Autumn in the Teme Valley. There are many opportunities for local people to be involved.

I Almost Went To Church

An anonymous poem from Offa Tree News, January 03

I almost went to church last night
But couldn't find the time.
So much to do in the garden,
To have left it would have been a crime.
So I dug and hoed and weeded
And went wearily to bed,
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night
But some old friends of mine came,
And to have closed the door on them
Would have been an awful shame.
So we talked and chatted and gossiped
Until the goodbyes were said,
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night
But my favourite programme was on,
And by the time it was finished
The time for church was gone.
So I sat before the telly
Until the set was dead,
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night
But I left it rather late,
And punctuality
Is a thing I really hate.
So I sat before the fire
Took up a book and read,

But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night
But a certain preacher was there,
And for his kind of preaching
I didn't really care.
So rather than go to church
And come back with a heavy head,
I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night
But found it was too late.
The church was locked and silent
And "For Sale" was on the gate.
Oh, the remorse, which now I felt,
The little church was dead,
And I – Yes I – had killed it
By going next week instead.



Services at Martley Post Office

Banking Services

Personal Banking for Alliance & Leicester, Co-Operative Bank, Lloyds TSB Bank, Barclays Bank, Cahoot, Smile UK. With all these banks you can: pay money in, pay cheques in, cash cheques with a valid cheque guarantee card. All free of charge.

Travel Products

E111. Free doctor or hospital treatment within EEC countries. Low cost travel insurance for all the family for home, abroad and skiing holidays, as well as annual insurance issued over the counter. 0 percent commission on all foreign currency and travellers cheques (excluding sterling travellers cheques). We are a pre-order office and currency is available after four working days from date of order, in emergencies, two days.

Home Insurance

Cheaper home insurance for low-income families, a free phone number is available and free quotation provided. A leaflet is provided in the post office.

Phone Services

The post office provides cheaper phone services on land lines for inland and abroad. Phone cards to top up 'pay and go' phones. The respective networks might charge to top up when registering, but overall rates are cheaper. Copies of the rates for both phone services are available. Top-up cards for O2, Vodafone, T-Mobile and Virgin can still be purchased.

Flowers

Bunches Quality flowers delivered by post at a reasonable cost.

Shop Facilities

Photo copying, faxing, laminating, video and DVD hire. Electronic top up for O2, Orange, T-Mobile and Vodafone.

Film Processing

Films are sent away, depending on what type of film, it can take between three and five working days. Also now available photos put onto discs for use on computers and vice versa.

Advertising in the shop window

Cash point with a small charge, except Alliance & Leicester customers.

Items for purchase

Tobacco, wine, beer, spirits, soft drinks, sweets, crisps, ice cream, film for cameras, disposable cameras, batteries, torches, lottery, scratch cards, greetings cards, postcards, gifts. Tyrrell crisps made locally by a farmer in Leominster.

Paintings by a local artist.

New Services

Agents for a travel agency. They guarantee that if you find a cheaper holiday they will refund the difference, plus 25 percent of the difference. Leaflets available at the post office.

Agents for a computer repair company. For further details please ask at the post office. Also available are reconditioned computers at affordable prices, plus other services.



Nature Ramblings

This month our nature ramble takes a look at one viewpoint concerning the Martley Millennium Green, which I have heard voiced from several directions—Editor.

Dear Editor,

From The Ringing World (23 November 1973): "... in the lovely rich countryside between the Severn and the Teme, it should be seen when the fruit blossom is clothing all the hills and filling all the valleys with its beauty: there is nothing in England to compare with West Worcestershire in the spring. If we were really civilised, all folk would leave their work and come and see it and thank God for so much beauty, and Martley Church would be a good spot in which to do so".

Few who know the Teme Valley would disagree with those words used by Sir John Betjeman to describe the setting of St Peter's, Martley. To quote from another, more recent source "... an outstanding specimen of historic church architecture listed as of Grade 1 importance; it is a typical and beautiful country church, tranquil and quiet, at home in its surroundings. It is all of these and more; it is "our" church", the responsibility of the

Martley community."

It is so very sad that these profound words are apparently now being disregarded.

Unfortunately it would seem that the Parish Council, having stressed in their planning application – (No. 99/00928 St Peter's Meadow change of use to become a wild flower meadow) – "that the views of Martley Church be preserved" are now in favour of our best (and only, really) view of the whole church from a public road, being hidden behind a wall of trees on the southern side of the meadow. These extra trees were not illustrated on the coloured plan that was publicly displayed, enabling the parishioners to see the proposed scheme and to be satisfied that this superb view would not be impaired. It was also pointed out by letter at the time that the proposals should be sympathetic to the views across the site to Church (and vice versa), and the Planning Officer's comments emphasised the importance of retaining the character and appearance of Martley Conservation Area.

The reason for writing this letter is that these views are NOT being preserved, and I am not alone in my concern over the matter. All these extra trees will, in future years, completely alter the character of the area, not to mention considerably reducing the beautiful

sight of the Church from Hope House Lane. Who on earth could think that trees would be more important than this! And where are the eye-level sketches for these 2003 additions?

To quote from previous Villager copies, February 1999 – “it is to be a type of nature reserve and not a park.” March 1999 – “primarily a conservation area.” (Don’t views count?) November 2000 – “trees planted were carefully positioned to enhance the area, taking care not to restrict good views.” February 2001 – “38 trees planted to date, only a few left to go now.” Surely that was enough! It is also lovely to sit on the churchyard seat by the small south door and look to the east to Laugherne House and its cedars, but that is to be impaired too. Perhaps the Parochial Church Council could have been approached for an opinion on all the extra planting? And why the unnecessary timber eyesores over the previously not-noticeable drain covers? The safety fencing surrounding the ponds would have been better left intact, then two sheep would not have drowned.

There is a lovely church in Martley. Why hide it?

Claudia Steele

In the Kitchen



Baked Bananas

Serves 4

50g (2 oz)

2 tablespoons soft brown sugar

2 tablespoons lemon juice

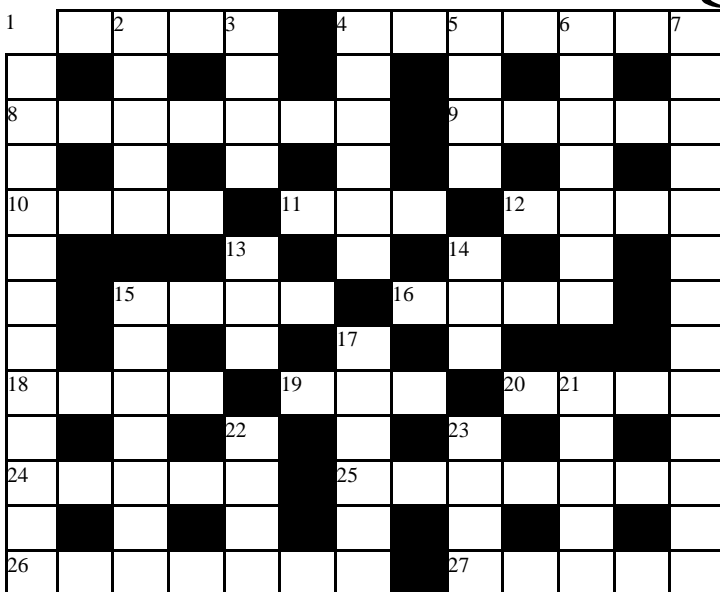
4 bananas

2 tablespoons brandy (or orange juice)

1. Put butter, sugar and lemon juice in a shallow casserole and place in a pre-heated moderate oven (180° C, Gas 4) for a few minutes until melted.
2. Cut bananas into large pieces or halves and arrange in the casserole, turning to coat in the sauce.
3. Add the brandy (or orange juice), and return to the oven for about 30 mins.
4. Serve hot with cream or ice-cream.

This dish is easy to make and is popular with all ages. It can easily be adapted to cooking in a microwave oven (cook for 5-6 minutes only, depending on your oven settings).

Tea-break



ACROSS

1. CONSUMED AT HOLY COMMUNION (5)
4. THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY (7)
8. USED TO FORCE A CONFESSION (7)
9. NOT HERE (5)
10. MADRID FOOTBALL TEAM (4)
11. PLURAL OF THE VERB AM (3)
12. PHOTO (4)
15. NOT BAD (4)
16. HE WROTE LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES (4)
18. SCOTTISH TOWN (4)
19. NUMBER OF COMMANDMENTS (3)
20. LEAVE OUT (4)
24. FOOL (5)
25. OT PROPHET(7)
26. JEWEL (7)
27. LATIN FORM OF MOTHER (5)

DOWN

1. ONE OF THE MIRACLES (5,4,4,)
2. TERRA..... (DRY LAND) (5)

3. PUT TO FLIGHT (4)
4. A TOAST (6)
5. DECEASED (4)
6. ALL FEMALE POP GROUP (7)
7. BOOK BY PETER WRIGHT (3,10)
8. OT CHARACTER WHO HAD GREAT PATIENCE (3)
9. ORGANISED (3)
10. VERY HARD BUILDING STONE (7)
17. BIBLICAL TERM FOR LOOK (6)
21. DAMP (5)
22. GREEK COLONNADED WALK (4)
23. FOOD PRODUCER (4)

Answers to April crossword:

ACROSS: 4.RESORT 5.GRID 7.HOLIDAY 10. DWARF 11.CATALAN 12.MINED 14. AGONISE 15.GLOBE 16.IRONING 20.PALLS 21.GOSHAWK 22.HATE 23.WILSON
DOWN: 1.ASPIC 2.GREAT 3.BROWNIE 4. ROOT 6.DARKER 8.DAGGERS 9.YAWNING 10.DAMSONS 13.BLEACH 14.ABILITY 17. IONIC 18.GHOST 19.SWAN

Cracker jokes again!

Where do cows go on holiday?

Moo York

What do you call a crate of ducks?

A box of quackers

Why hasn't anyone ever stolen a canal? *It has too many locks*

What is a frog's favourite drink?

Croaka Cola

What do astronauts call sausages?

Unidentified frying objects

Where do you always need an overcoat? *Chile*

NEW QUARTER-PAGE ADVERT

In the Garden



May can still be a busy month for the gardener, planting out vegetable plants that have been container grown and hardened off. These include sprout plants, lettuce, Autumn cabbage and cauliflower plants. It is not too late to plant container-grown broad beans. Seed of many vegetable varieties can be sown including peas, parsnip, carrot, radish, red beet and spinach. Purple and white sprouting and broccoli should be sown towards the end of the month.

Heathers can be trimmed with a pair of shears to keep them compact and tidy. Remove the heads of Spring flower plants. The leaves should be left to die down naturally before removing, as they will replenish the bulbs for next year. Sow seed of wallflowers, Canterbury bells and forget-me-nots towards the end of the month. This should produce plants for planting out in the Autumn. Pests will appear this month, and multiply very fast in warm weather. Heed the warning and take action early.

Jack Bradley