

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 14 No. 12

May 2005

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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

May 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 **Great Witley & Knightwick**

Surgeries: Weds 10am -4pm - by appt.

01584 810860

Short mat Bowling Tuesdays 2.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

See Church Words for details of services

- Mon 2 **May Day Bank Holiday**
- Sun 8 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers around Martley explore Horsham Meet 2pm Church car park
- Mon 9 **Martley Parish Council Meeting** 8pm Memorial Hall
- Wed 11 **Martley WI: Resolutions meeting** 7.30pm Sport Martley
- Sat 14 **Martley Annual Parish Meeting** 10am-5pm Memorial Hall
- Sun 15 **Walking Not Working with the Path-or-Nones.** Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help survey the footpaths
- Mon 16 **Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council Annual Meeting** 7.30pm Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Wed 18 **Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship** 2.30pm Church, then Memorial Hall
- Sat 21 **Martley & District Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale** and car boot sale 2pm Memorial Hall
- Tue 24 **Martley Primary School Sports Day**
- Mon 30 **Spring Bank Holiday**

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 4 April 2005 at the Memorial Hall. Cllr Mr. D. Cropp Chairman. Also in attendance: County Cllr. Mr. A. Davies, District Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams and 13 members of the public.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

Mr. N. Bruen mentioned that he had attended a recent meeting with County Cllr. Mr. A. Davies and Worcestershire County Council Highways Partnership manager Mr. M. Davies regarding Ankerdine Hill. Four proposals have been agreed:

1. Removal of the B4197 from the HGV advisory routing.
2. Traffic calming measures.
3. Continuing monitoring of the land slip for a further six months.
4. An 18-tonne weight limit (this would prevent articulated lorries using it). The time scale for these proposal is not agreed as yet and no mention was made of the weight limit on Bell Lane. Costs are being put into this year's budget for some of the works. The Chairman thanked Mr. Bruen for the quality of

his report. A question was asked about the progress of lottery grants. The Chairman confirmed that The Millennium Green Trust is being helped to apply.

The Chairman announced that Martley Parish Council was now achieved "Quality Status". This is the first Parish Council in Malvern Hills District to achieve this status.

District Councillor's Report:

District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams congratulated the council on achieving Quality Status.

County Councillor's Report:

County Councillor Mr. A. Davies congratulated the council on achieving Quality Status. He further elaborated on the Ankerdine Hill issue. He reminded everyone of the forthcoming County Council elections on 5 May.

Correspondence:

Included - PC letter to MHDC re. Ancient Hedgerows; Mr. J. Nicklin re Short Term Parking. (The Clerk to ask the Lengthman to investigate); Contract for Lengthman; Vital Villages: End of scheme arrangements, Mr. M. Field: re Barbers Lane and Clerk's reply;

MHDC Elections for WCC display notice; MHDC District Plan second draft objection sites; Laugherne Valley Travel report on continuing finance.

Planning:

Applications received: 05/00440/FUL Fairview Willow Rd Replacement. Dwelling (Cllr. M. Nott). Site meeting to be arranged. 05/00438/FUL Hillside vineyard Temp structure for carer accommodation (Cllr. D. Goodyear). Site meeting to be arranged. 05/00410/FUL Quarry Cottage Pudford Ln. conservatory (Cllr. D. Goodyear). No comment other than matching materials to be used. 05/00310/FUL Poolfields Cottage Wants Green: sun lounge extn. (Cllr. M. Nott. No comment. At this point Cllr. Mr. G. Coombey-Jone left the room and Cllr. Mr. N. Stammers withheld comment. 05/00445/FUL Homeland (centre village) Side extn.(Cllr D. Cropp). No comment subject to discussions with neighbours.

Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn: 04/00883/AGR Berrow Green Rd. fertiliser storage, crops and general purpose store: prior approval not required. 04/02081/LBC Peartree Cottage: single storey extns to kitchen and sunroom approved. 04/02080/FUL Peartree Cottage as above approved. 05/00109/FUL 50 St. Peters Drive side garage extn approved. 05/00158/FUL The Orchards replacement dwelling and relocation of access drive approved subject to conditions.

Other issues: MHDC Planning Committee 5 April.

Finance:

There were 6 cheques totalling £912.85 for agreement and signature. Actual position 4 April 05 £5501.83.

Parish Paths Warden Report:

There was no report this month.

Parish Council Assisted Bus Passes:

It was resolved to continue the scheme.

Urgent Decisions since last meeting:

The Clerk reported the signing of a cheque for £69.00 being the annual fee for SLCC (Society for Local Council Clerks)

Replacement of Lengthman:

The Clerk reported that Mr. R. Wilkes has been appointed and started from 1 April.

Councillor Training:

The Clerk reported progress. The first meeting is at Little Witley Village Hall on 18 April at 7pm.

Councillors Reports and Items for

Future Agendas:

Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear asked the Clerk to report the poor state of the road just before the lay-by, Hillside, to WCC Highways. Cllr. Mr. N. Stammers asked about the by-law prohibiting animals from the sports field. It was agreed to include this on a future agenda.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 9. May 2005 at 8 p.m. which will be the annual meeting of The Parish Council. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Saturday 14 May from 10:00 until 17:00.

Tom Pearsall, Clerk (01886 888256)

Martley & District Horticultural Society

Society members have been quite busy over the last month. They entered a team in a quiz organised by Webbs of Wychbold for the Greenfingers Appeal. "Martley Muckers" did very well and came joint first with "The Snowdrops", but unfortunately lost the tie-break question. The team members were Dot Roberts, Mike Dunnett, Jane Cropp and Mary Walker.

The Society held their seventh Spring Show in the Village Hall. There were 119 entries. Results of the Show Classes were as follows:

Class 1 1st Tony Kirby, 2nd David Cropp, 3rd Mel Williams.

Class 2 1st Richard Webb, 2nd Margaret Rushgrove, 3rd Dot Roberts.

Class 3 1st Barbara Kirby, 2nd Mel Williams, 3rd Margaret Jackson.

Class 4 1st Dot Roberts, 2nd Barbara Kirby.

Class 5 1st Sylvia Jeffries, 2nd Dot Roberts, 3rd Pam Minchin.

Class 6 1st Sylvia Jeffries, 2nd Dot Roberts, 3rd Pam Minchin.

Class 7 1st David Cropp, 2nd Margaret Parry, 3rd Dot Roberts.

Class 8 1st Margaret Jackson, 2nd Dot Roberts.

Class 9 1st Barbara Kirby, 2nd Tony Kirby, 3rd Margaret Jackson.

Class 10 1st Barbara Kirby, 2nd Dot Roberts, 3rd Margaret Rushgrove.

Class 11 1st Barbara Kirby, 2nd Sylvia Jeffries, 3rd Margaret Rushgrove.

Class 12 1st Pat Rinch, 2nd Margaret

Jackson, 3rd Mel Williams.

Class 13 1st David Cropp, 2nd Pat Finch, 3rd Margaret Jackson.

Class 14 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Margaret Jackson, 3rd Dot Roberts.

Class 15 1st Sylvia Jeffries, 2nd Pam Minchin, 3rd Mel Williams.

Class 16 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Margaret Jackson, 3rd Barbara Kirby.

Class 17 1st Margaret Jackson.

Class 18 1st Annette Smith, 2nd "The Girls", 3rd P Turner.

The "Jack Bradley" Trophy awarded to the person gaining the highest number of points in the Show was won by Margaret Jackson.

Children's Classes:

Class 1 1st Ben Morris, 2nd Laura Hullan, 3rd Tom Carter.

Class 2 1st Daisy Holland, 2nd Brandon Turner, 3rd Jacob Turner.

Class 3 1st Ella Raybone, 2nd Daniel Johnson, 3rd Kelly Griffiths.

Class 4 1st Oliver Griffiths, 2nd Laura Hullan, 3rd Joseph Studer.

Class 5 1st Scott Reeves, 2nd Kelly Griffiths, 3rd Laura Hullan.

Class 6 1st Elisha White, 2nd Harry Taylor, 3rd Molly O'Donnell.

There were 123 entries in the Children's Classes. The winner of each class had an Easter Egg.

A team consisting of Mike Dunnett, Dot Roberts and Mary Walker represented the Horticultural Society at a quiz held by Clows Top Gardening Club in their Village Hall. The team were unfortunate in losing by half a point, a very close run competition! The event was held in

conjunction with their Spring Show. It was very well attended, including 9 members from Martley to support the team. Excellent refreshments were served by the Gardening Club members afterwards.

At the last meeting of the Society, members were treated to a constructive, and at times amusing, evening on the subject of the art of judging flowers and vegetables brought by members and exhibited on a show bench. Jenny Worsfold from Cheltenham, who is a member of the Show Judges Organisation, judged the



hyacinth plants that had been grown by members from bulbs presented to them by the Society. Many of these failed to produce what could be considered good show specimens. The reasons why were fully explained by Jenny. The bloom exhibited by Judith O'Leary was judged the best. Members of the Society tried their hand at judging flowers and vegetables under the eye of Jenny, but not many passed the test! She was thanked by Ray Ellis.

The Society's Annual Plant Sale and Car Boot Sale will be held on Saturday 21 May at 2pm in the Village Hall and on the playing field (not long now). If you do have any

surplus flower or vegetable plants, the Society would be very pleased to have them on the morning of the sale at the Village Hall.

Nellie Bradley

Martley C of E Primary School

As many of you will be aware, there have been many changes at Martley Primary School over the past few months.

The new building extension is now complete and has provided a well-designed new classroom for Reception/Year 1 children, as well as an extended and refurbished classroom for Class 2. We have been able to equip the new room with lovely, specially-designed furniture which, together with the extra space and enclosed outdoor play area, has

created a fantastic teaching and learning environment that both children and



staff are thoroughly enjoying using. An open day took place on 29 April when parents and visitors were invited to a Share Assembly followed by a speech by Mrs Chris Chandler, whom many of you will remember from her teaching days at the school.

Year 6 children spent four days in

March at Barton Hall in Devon with children from Hallow and Holt and Grimley schools, where they enjoyed many outdoor and adventurous activities such as zip wire and quad bikes. They were also able to further develop their IT skills. They returned tired, but happy, and Mrs Mullins and Mrs McGrath, the teachers accompanying them.

Some Diary dates for the Summer term:

24 May, Sports Day

8 June, Summer Fete, 12.30 start with a theme of cartoon characters

12 July, School play, 1.30pm

13 July, School play, 6.30pm

19 July, Leavers Service, 2pm.

Computers for Schools

Martley Post Office is collecting Tesco Computers for Schools vouchers on behalf of the Primary School.



Martley WI

Wednesday 11 May 7.30pm Sport Martley

This is our Resolutions meeting, so no speaker this month. Come along and have your say, (it is always nice if there is a bit of an argument) and tell our delegate how you wish her to vote. A fabulous social time is arranged for this month, so don't miss it. NOTE: The garden meeting this year will be at Hillend Cottage, Pudford Lane and



will be one day later than in the programme, NOT 8 June but Thursday 9 June, to avoid clashing with the national AGM.

President Pat Crook will be going to the Albert Hall as our delegate and we shall

want her at our garden meeting. More details next month.

Kate King

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 8 May 2pm at Church Car Park

We were sorry Pam Southall was not well enough to lead us around Little Hereford after she and Anthony had spent time so carefully planning it. Anthony coped manfully and led 14 walkers and four dogs on a very pleasant walk by riverside, common and farmland. This was an area new to the Ramblers and much enjoyed.

This month we shall be led around Horsham and Knightwick by the Two Paulines. WARNING: there is to be no dallying for fattening refreshments when/if we are anywhere near the Farmers Market at The Talbot.

Nellie Mann, one of our founder members, died recently at her home at Stanford Bridge. Nellie and Charlie came regularly for many years until age and infirmity caught up with them. They were amongst the crowd of us

who met in the conservatory of Margaret and Ted Whelan's home in Berrow Green Road in 1974 to form a group of like minded people to walk the footpaths of the village and surrounds. Strong opposition was shown by some local farmers, but that is all a tale for another day.

Kate King

Knighthwick and District Trefoil Guild

Eleven members met at the home of Chris Fletcher in Clifton-on-Teme, for a very pleasant afternoon of poetry and prose. We had a wide variety of poems and readings depicting the taste and character of the members of our group: sense of fun, animal lover etc.



Geraldine Cooper.

Wartime Bus in Martley

Further to the item in Around and About in Martley April 2005 and the letter from Lisa Lang concerning my enquiry to Curious Fox about the time I spent in Martley in the early days of WW2.

My cousins and I were evacuated, originally with a Mrs Rowley in a small cottage, but I'm sure that kind lady found four youngsters and an elderly carer in the shape of Great Aunt Sarah more than enough to cope with and after a short time we took



possession of a double-decker bus/tram and lived there for several months

until eventually caring for us children also proved too much for Aunt Sarah and we returned to Smethwick in the West Midlands, shortly before the bombing started.

The bus/tram (I am still not sure which) was sited in a small triangular field and from my very distant memory the bus and our little entourage were the only occupants of the field. We had a stand-pipe for water but since I was only nine at the time, the details of cooking, cleaning and general living conditions escaped me.

Suffice to say, we were fed, watered and cared for and thought we were in heaven, the conditions were so exciting and a far cry from the grimy sooty air of Smethwick with all the heavy industry working 24/7 in the war effort.

My abiding memory of Martley was the school (which I think must have been The Chantry School) and the kindness of the Villagers.

I did have an earlier article printed in The Villager a couple of years ago but since your correspondent, Lisa Lang has raised the subject again I am taking this opportunity to try my luck with one last appeal for anyone who might remember the bus/tram to write to me directly, or email me, if they have any information.

My thanks also to Ms Lang for showing an interest in my quest.

Kathleen Warne

45 Milton Road

St Marks

Cheltenham, Glos

GL51 7EU

Email kathlee@warne602.fslife.co.uk

The Ferndale Singers

For the second year in succession, the choir took part in the Worcester Arts Festival, competing in their class against two other choirs. Whilst the cup was won by one of their competitors the Ferndales were awarded a Distinction and received most generous and encouraging comments from the adjudicator.

We are indebted for this achievement to Merren Anthony, our conductor, who works so hard to improve our standards in all areas and to prepare us not only for the festival but also for concerts and our participation in Church Festivals.

On the day of the competition, we were accompanied by Sarah Kings on the piano and by a guest oboist, who both played most beautifully, and to whom we are also indebted.

Chris Baker

Martley Spurs

March started off with the Spurs missing out when the Saturday Premier side lost their semi-final match in the Baylis Cup 2 - 1 to the league leaders Perrywood. The next

day saw another defeat when the Sunday Premier team lost to Trinity Sports. Fortunately the Reserves did do much better when they got through to the final of the Worcester Nursing Junior Cup by beating Stoke Prior Sporting.

Saturday the 12th brought a further loss for the Premier eleven, nine goals were scored, two by Chris Collins, but the Lamb and Flag got that extra one. Sunday the 13th was a better day, the Premier side beat Powick and the Reserves overcame Littlewood 4 - 1, Phil Edwards netting a couple. Saturday 19th saw the Premier eleven slaughter their opponents Goodrest by bagging a full dozen, a match in which both Tom Goldsmith and Chris Collins collected hat tricks while Goodrest did not get one passed the Spurs' goalie. The Sunday Premier side carried on the good work the next morning by beating Kempsey 3 - 2, a couple being notched up by Nick Herbert. The Reserves did not do so well and lost to Littleworth.

There was just one fixture on the final weekend when the Saturday Premier team lost 3 - 4 to Tolladine. Steve Pritckett's pair was just not enough. The league tables at the end of the month showed the Saturday team in second place with three less games played than the leaders, the Sunday Premier side in fourth place and the Reserves in third place with games in hand.

Beth Williams



Open Garden

Megan Griffiths is opening her garden at 1, Prickley Bungalows, Hockhams Lane on the following dates:

**Sun & Mon 1-2 May
& 29-30 May
Sun 12, 26 June
Sun 10 July**

The garden is open as part of The National Gardens Scheme. Opening times are 2-6pm. Megan's garden has many interesting herbaceous perennials, a woodland area, a gravel garden and a wildlife pond, amongst other delights.

Also open by appointment. Details from Meg on 01886 821523.



Harvest Festival

Advance notice is given for your diary that Martley Harvest Supper will be on Saturday 1 October, followed by the Harvest Service on Sunday 2 October 11.00am at St. Peter's Church

Correction

The Villager would like to state that Martin Hill swam 52 lengths for charity, not meters as stated in the March issue of The Villager.

100 Years Ago in Martley

May – The Diocesan Inspector's Report for the Boys' School received this month stated, "The boys have passed a very satisfactory exam: all the divisions (years) did some very good work and the written work was also satisfactory. The singing was good and the repetition well said. The School thoroughly deserves its place in the A class". (Note: This inspection was yearly.)



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Wichenford Church News

Church Flowers

1 May Mrs Whyatt

8 May Mrs Whyatt

15 May TBA

22 May Mrs Wetherall

29 May Benefice Service TBA

Ladies please note that on Wednesday 18 May instead of Tuesday, the annual gathering of the Diocesan Fellowship Groups will be held in Wichenford at 2.30pm in church and then in the Memorial Hall.

Wichenford Open Gardens

Wichenford Gardens will be open during the weekend of Saturday 25 June and Sunday 26 June (not July, as stated in the April issue of *The Villager*).

Heritage Society

The Heritage Society held their AGM on Wednesday 16 March. Several interesting projects have been undertaken during the year and some,



Janet Andrews

01886 888303

Sheila Richards

01886 888378

such as recording of ancient trees, are still on-going. A satisfactory financial report was presented and the Society has been encouraged to apply to The Countryside Agency for a further grant. Plans are being made for a series of autumn lectures. The committee was elected as follows: Mrs M Hylan, Chairman; Mrs K Furber, Treasurer; Prof M Mitchard, Secretary; Mrs J Field, Meetings Secretary; Committee members, Mrs E Fraser, Mr P Harris, Mrs M Mitchard, Mr P Walker and Mrs C Wetherall and Mrs C Wetherall, Minutes Secretary. Mrs J Andrews resigned as committee member and was thanked for her contribution to the Society. The chairman thanked all members for their attendance and thanked officers and committee members for all their help throughout the year.

Wichenford 100 Club

March winner: Will Pearce. No 186. £112.

Millennium Green Tidying & Inspection Rota

May: Ray Pantou

Biking the Macmillan Elgar Trail

Anyone brave/fit/foolish enough to attempt the 25-mile or even the 50-mile route?

Date: 12th June. I think

I might have a go.

Ring Harriet on 01886-888382 if tempted.



Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes.

Record of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th March 2005 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Councillor Britten-Long chaired the meeting.

Democratic period/Public question time.

Parishioners living on the B4204 attended the meeting for an update. They reported on the recent accident at the cottages along this road. An article regarding the camera partnership in Welland was discussed, and Mr Young from the CC has been approached for information. A speed survey was done in 2000 just west of the entrance to Hill Farm. 85% of

motorists travelling from Martley to Worcs were doing 60mph or less. In the opposite direction it was 56% or less. Specific criteria has to be met before double white lines can be painted in the centre of the road.

When any accidents occur the clerk was asked to report these to the accident studies unit at the County Council and send copies of all correspondence to the district and county council, the district councillor and county councillor of Martley and Broadheath parishes.

The Collision Intelligence unit at Hindlip gathers statistics of accidents from the B4204. It was reported that since the road has been resurfaced the lines do not appear at all as they haven't been replaced. The clerk was asked to report this to the highways and get it done as soon as possible.

REPORTS

County Councillor's Report.

Councillor Hickling reported that the second Local Transport Plan for 2006-2011 is currently out to consultation. There are two meetings in Malvern and a meeting has also been arranged for 11th March at Broadheath village hall.

In order to obtain a good transport infrastructure and services she recommends that we air our views. (Cllr Randall and the clerk will attend this meeting). Councillor Hickling has written to the organiser John Seddon who is in charge of Policy and Strategy with local thoughts on the Worcestershire Transport plan.

District Councillor's Report

Councillor Williams written report was read out. She explained the Malvern Hills portion of the council tax has increased by 3.9%.

She has spoken to Maurice Carless with regard to the B4204 site visit at Kenswick, who is currently putting a programme of surveys together (listed above under item 5/18).

Councillor Williams is a member of the Policy Development and review panel, on Rural Affordable Housing-draft letting policy. It has been agreed that we should have a District Parish and catchments areas groupings, because there is a need for local people in Wichenford who require affordable housing to let. Cllr Williams suggests that Wichenford, Martley, Kenswick and Clifton upon Teme should be grouped for letting purposes. If houses were to be built for rent for example in Martley and Clifton, under the 106 agreement Wichenford people will stand a better chance of a house if all the Martley or Clifton ones are not taken up.

PROGRESS REPORTS

1) Barbers Lane

The clerk's letter to the HPU was circulated in the correspondence folder. Ultimately the parish council would like a weight restriction along Barbers Lane and Poplar Road. Worcestershire County Council HPU replied that the enforcement of such orders is difficult and unless a significant amount of heavy goods vehicle traffic is using these roads as a

through or convenient route the implementation of an order would have little effect. Because of the difficulty of enforcement the police does generally not support these types of orders. The parish council asked the clerk to write to the HPU replying that the statistics are immaterial and ask for 'Single Track Lane' signs.

2) Refuse Collection Vehicles.

There has been no reply to the clerk's letter of February 11th regarding the large refuse freighter using Barbers Lane. The clerk was asked to write again.

PLANNING

Applications received for comment since the last meeting. 05/00134/Ful Loose box stable and equipment/store/feed, for Unit 4 Rimmers Farm. The parish council has no objections to this application providing the building is re-sited in the grey area. 05/00188/ful Formation of agricultural roadway for Colketts Farm. The parish council are not in favour of this application. 05/00225/LBC- 00214/Ful First floor extension at Kenswick Mill Barn. The parish council has no objection to this application.

Decisions made by MHDC. 04/01271/ful Side extension to form new bedroom and bathroom at Newland Cottage has been granted. 04/01948/ful. Erection of garage block for units 1, 2 and 3 Rimmers Farm has been granted.

FINANCE

The income and expenditure account were studied and it was resolved that

they should be adopted by this parish council. £4,727.16 has been spent to date. The council approved cheques for payment and signature to the sum of £970.15. WRVS. The parish council resolved not to make a donation.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (inspection of documents)

The parish council are aware of the risk to the clerk having to allow any documents to be inspected at her property. It was therefore suggested that a notice be placed on the notice boards to inform anyone that wants to inspect anything that it can only be done before a parish council meeting or with prior arrangement at the memorial hall.

HIGHWAYS.

B4204 meeting. At the meeting on 16th February which was attended by 32 parishioners, Maurice Carless and Andy Ashfield of the Highways Partnership Unit and Mike Digger from West Mercia Police accident advisor it was agreed that a programme would be put together to monitor the speed along this stretch of road. Things such as: Speed Loops to monitor speed. Tapley meters in high vehicles to see what is the safest maximum speed through the corners, particularly round Laughern Corner. Assessment of double white lines. Traffic survey, preferably taken at the junction in Martley, to monitor the amount of traffic. Surface review. To look at the surface of the road along the stretch of Kenswick Manor to

Kenswick Mill. The HPU will keep the parish council informed of any developments. The letters regarding the Environmental Information Regulations Act were. It was decided that information regarding Guises Lane and Rosses Lane should not be released.

NORA PARSONS DAY CENTRE
Councillor Stinton explained that the day centre lease expires in May. Reverend Sherwin would like to amalgamate the two committees, but has to consider the legal implications. At the moment the Management Committee are responsible for the fabric of the building, and the Day Centre committee are responsible for running it. The Diocesan Board owns the building, the parish council lease the building to the Day Centre Committee, who are the tenants. Councillor Stinton agreed to approach the original signatories of the lease to see if there was a reason for it being done this way. The parish council agreed that it should be amalgamated as one committee.

ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT.

The annual risk assessment was studied and discussed by the parish council. It was resolved that the clerk along with Cllrs Randall & Stinton complete the assessment and to sign it at the Annual meeting in May.

INSURANCE POLICY REVIEW.

The Insurance Policy was discussed. The parish council are covered for all the mandatory covers plus property damage, officials' indemnity, libel and

slander, fidelity guarantee (increased limit), personal accident and legal expenses. The clerk explained that the pathfinders' tools should be added onto the policy. The council asked the clerk to insure the pathfinders' equipment and get the drive carefully signs removed from the policy as they belong to the highways department.

CORRESPONDENCE

Included: The clerk asked the council to read the report for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was suggested that the Wichenford wine club be added to the agenda and Neighbourhood Watch. Calor Village of the year 2005, Government Valuation of Rough Sleeping in the Malvern Hills District, Letter regarding refuse freighters/ collection, Letter regarding weight restriction on Barbers Lane, MHDC Delivering the new planning system. MHDC Public Speaking at Development Control Committees, MHDC Changes to the New Planning System & The MH local Development Framework. ODPM Creating better places to live, ODPM Vibrant Local Leadership – Citizen Engagement and public services, Earths Anchors Ltd New products. Sir Michael Spicer interviews, Fenplay "Softball", DEFRA Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Bill, View from the Hills MHDC Newspaper, MHDC Acknowledgement of precept letter, WRVS, MHDC Decommissioning of Council Skip Service, Standards Board. A Code for the Future.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

Councillor Wells reported that the footpath and volunteer management course he was to attend has been cancelled. The chairman thanked Cllr Wells for all the work and time he has put in on the footpaths. The lengthsman was also thanked for doing a very good job and his contract will be reviewed at the next meeting. WCC are spending a lot of money on our footpaths by replacing posts, bridges and stiles. A kissing gate has now been installed on footpath RCM1. You can now walk in a loop from the church to guises lane through the village. The bridge at Colketts Farm cannot be done because of the tree and wet weather. It also looks as though Kings Green will get its all weather access from the road to the bridleway in the better weather.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

16 May 2005 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm.

18 July 2005 at 7.30pm.

All in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

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

Things my Mother used to say:

"I've got eyes in the back of my head, you know!"

"If you go to bed with wet hair, you'll catch your death of cold ..."

Sudan Correspondent—Part 4

Last October, John Layton was posted to the war-zone in Sudan to help set up communications for the aid agencies working there. In the previous report, we left him in Nyala, battling temperatures as northern-Europeans find intolerably hot and the very basic infrastructure in the country.

On this assignment, the radios had been pre-fitted to the vehicles and were due to be checked over and reprogrammed with the correct networks, stations and frequencies and emergency calls. Programming can be done by hand, a laborious job taking a fair amount of time especially where the network is a large one. The laptop computer was taken to the first vehicle and plugged in, programming then commenced. Two minutes later the computer crashed, overcome by the heat: before the job was even half-finished. My only course of action was to remove computer to a cooler place. Result: computer working fine, radio programming still not done! We now have to cover the windscreen of each vehicle sometime beforehand. It is even difficult to find shade to allow the cabin to cool sufficiently for the computer to operate. Tomorrow I cause further chaos in the Oxfam Nyala camp as I attempt to program as many of the vehicles as possible in one go. Hopefully in the shade this time. It being a Friday and predominantly a Muslim society here, and therefore a “weekend”, it’s the only opportunity I might have.

“It is even difficult to find shade to allow the cabin to cool sufficiently for the computer to operate.”

Regarding rebel activity, it is sparse around the area at the moment although there is a need always to be on your guard. For instance, someone planted a landmine, blowing up an aid vehicle just before I arrived killing both of the occupants. But that’s the only incident of note in the last couple weeks so it’s fairly quiet. After all, I could have struck an unlucky patch myself and been knocked off my bike as I delivered the Villager along the Worcester Road, just as easily.

Have now been in Sudan for two weeks and in Southern Darfur for just over a week. In all that time the temperature has never dropped below 80, either during the day, or so it seems, at night. Having worked and spent months in many countries of Africa, both north and south of the Equator, I have never before experienced the sort of consistent dry heat we have here at the moment. The climate of this central area almost certainly influenced by the presence of the Sahara Desert further to the north. However, yesterday morning everything changed for a while when the wind suddenly blew really hard. Not the pleasant

sort of breeze we experience in England but a very hot, almost blistering type of wind, which, combined with the sand and rubble covered streets, created a dust storm, providing even more difficulties for people as they made their way around the town. Fine sand particles, together with all types of rubbish, including the highly-coloured plastic bags, rose up, swirling and dancing around the streets as if there were no tomorrow. Bits of debris flew everywhere, the sand being particularly harsh to bear as it tore into faces and eyes, getting into one's ears and up one's nostrils and generally making life a little less pleasant. As if it wasn't quite difficult already. It is now that I am beginning to appreciate the traditional style of dress worn by many of the people of the hot and desert lands of the world: white light-weight cotton cloth to reflect the heat, a loose covering style to allow air to circulate underneath and with headdresses to keep the sun off the head and to provide coverage for faces where necessary. Unsuitable for many modern occupations but highly practical and probably the only type of garment specially designed to cope with the ever constant grinding and soul destroying heat and the occasional dust storm. Walking in the wind along the streets, my eyes soon felt very gritty and it was difficult to see at times as the dust, the dirt and the debris seemed to be coming from all directions. But just as suddenly as it had started, all was calm again, and we were left with a changed scene as the various items of highly-coloured rubbish gradually settled into their newly found positions.

At dusk, groups of women can be seen; returning from the fields, riding on donkeys laden with very large bundles of greenery. How they managed to climb aboard the donkeys and sit on top of the loads escapes me. Many carts are to be seen moving around the town, with scraggy brown horses pulling sometimes impossible-looking loads. The owners, I am sure, appreciate the value of the livestock and try to look after it as best they can. But life is hard and uncompromising in this region. How lucky we are to be living in the English countryside with its ever-changing seasons.

Of the wildlife around Nyala, I have only seen a few species so far. Birds that look in every detail similar to small sparrows are everywhere, and pigeons, also looking remarkably like the English variety, are quite common. Small blackbird-sized birds are in abundance, they have what can only be described as dark fluorescent-blue plumage with a very sharp-looking beak and are seen rooting for insects on the trees. Occasionally, a more exotic variety of small bird can be seen flitting amongst the few trees remaining in the streets. Amongst the buildings many birds can be seen looking for insects. They are not



particularly flamboyant, having black heads, dark grey backs and almost white undersides. The shape and plume on the back of the head making them looking similar to the Common Jay in the UK. This morning I came across a group of Ibis, I think that's what they are called. Largish black and white birds about one meter tall with stalk-like legs and very long, curved beaks. They were scavenging amongst the rubbish in the middle of the street oblivious to the small amount of traffic and pedestrians moving past. Domestic animals such as dogs are few in the streets, while cats, as thin as rakes, stalk about the place looking for scraps. On seeing a stranger (a white man dressed in shirt and trousers) they shoot off. They, and all the other animals, have to compete with the herds of unattended cattle and goats, which also roam around the streets, eating every piece of vegetation they can find. Small lizards are everywhere, scurrying up or lying motionless on walls and roofs waiting for the odd fly to sail past. All manner of crawly insects abound, with large beetle-like creatures, an inch or so across, quite harmless I have been told, wandering about the floors looking for goodies to eat. Of course, the usual ant colonies are everywhere with their ever-marching armies of thousands, moving remorselessly backward and forward in a steady stream from food supply to store across the floor, before finally disappearing from view in a hole in a

wall or a tree, or just underground. Remarkably though, with the rainy season now over, there are relatively few flies and mosquitoes to be seen. Everyone still sleeps under mosquito nets however, and as I caught malaria a few years ago in South Sudan, am taking no chances myself.

Its 11pm and I have just heard my first mosquito of the day buzzing around, so will have to run for cover.

John Layton



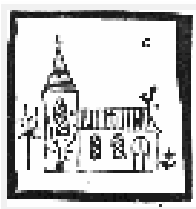
*Music for a Summer's
Evening*

*John Qualtrough and friends
entertain with 'Music for a
Summer's Evening' at St
Lawrence's Church Lindridge
on Saturday 4 June*

*The concert begins at 6.30pm
prompt to be followed by supper
in the gardens of The Priory, by
kind invitation of
Mr & Mrs EW Andrewes.*

*Tickets £20, to include glass of
wine in the interval and with
supper, available on
01584 881216 or 01584 881274.*

*All profits go towards
St Lawrence's church
tower repairs.*



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

During this month the Church traditionally celebrates Rogationtide. This was a time when Christians prayed for blessings upon their crops and other aspects of work upon the land. A very appropriate celebration for us. A service would have been held followed by visits to various places within the neighbourhood. Often combined with, 'beating of the bounds', a very old custom from a time when it was important to know the boundaries of the parish.

George Herbert, the poet and country Parson who lived in the seventeenth century, called this tradition 'Procession', and described it in the following terms:

The advantages of it are:

First, a blessing of God for the fruits of the field;

Second, justice in the preservation of bounds;

Third, charity in loving walking and neighbourly accompanying one another, with reconciling differences at that time, if there be any;

Fourth mercy in relieving the poor by a liberal distribution of alms.

Today we meet on a local farm, hold a service of worship, enjoy refreshments together and walk around the locality

praying a dedication of places, animals and objects to God, and for the environment and the fruitfulness of the earth.

Why not come and join us

This years Rogation Service will be on Sunday 8th May 11.00am at Hope House Farm, Hope House Lane, Martley, The home of Tony and Barbara Kirby. We are very grateful for their hospitality. This is a special Benefice Service, which is particularly relevant for the farming community. If you are a farmer or involved in farming please do come and join us for this event.

Songs of Praise

If you enjoy the format of Songs of Praise on TV then why not join us at St. Laurence and choose a favourite hymn or Song? If you want to let David know in advance please ring 01886 888664

Are there any musicians out there who would like to play in a group for the service? Let me know!

Confirmation

If there is anyone interested in pursuing Confirmation please let me, Rev David Sherwin (01886 888664), know as there will be a confirmation service for our Deanery at St. John's Worcester Sunday 8 May 4.00pm.

Revd David Sherwin

Church Diary for May

- Sun 1st May 8.00am Holy Communion Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion St Laurence Wichenford
11.00am Family Worship St Peter Martley
11am Morning Worship St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
6.30pm Evensong St Leonard Cotheridge
6.30pm Youth Meeting, Martley Rectory
- Tues 3rd May 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
- Thurs 5th May Ascension Day, Deanery Holy Communion 10.00am at St Johns
Church Worcester. Holy Communion 7.30pm at St Philip & St James,
Hallow. If you wish to go and need transport let
David know 01886 888664
- Sun 8th May 10.30am Benefice Rogation Service, Hope House Farm,
4.00pm Deanery Confirmation Service at St. John's Worcester
6.30pm Youth Meeting, Martley Rectory
- Mon 9th May 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at The Orchard, Martley
- Tues 10th May 7.30pm Lower Teme Valley PCC at Broadwater, Broadwas
- Wed 11th May 10.15am Holy Communion Heaton House
2.00pm Friends of St. Laurence mtg at the Home of Mrs Britten
8.00pm St. Laurence Family Worship Planning mtg at the home of G. Bar-
ber
- Sat 14th May St. Peter's Martley Spring Fayre on the Rectory Field 2.00pm-4.00pm
- Sun 15th May 8.00am Holy Communion St Peter Martley
- Pentecost 9.00am Matins St Leonard Cotheridge
- (Whit Sunday) 11.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
11.00am Morning Worship St Peter Martley
3.00pm Evening Worship Knightwick Chapel
6.30pm Evensong St Laurence Wichenford
6.30pm Youth Meeting, Martley Rectory
- Tues 18th May 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
- Sun 22nd May 8.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
- Trinity Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion St Peter Martley
11.00am Family Worship St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
11.00am Holy Communion St Laurence Wichenford
6.30pm Evening Worship St Peter Martley
- Mon 23rd May St. Laurence Wichenford PCC, Village Memorial Hall.
- Wed 25th May 10.15am Holy Communion Heaton House
7.30pm Archdeacons Visitation, All Saints Evesham
- Thu 2nd May 12.30pm Holy Communion, St. Peter's Martley,
(Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion—originally to be a home
Communion for Mothers Union but now open to all.)
- Sun 29th May 8.00am Benefice Holy Communion at St. Laurence Wichenford
- 5th Sunday 6.00pm Benefice Songs of Praise

In the Garden



Garden tips for May

May – it has been a long time since the Maypole was danced in Martley! This could be done on the village Millennium Field. It was an occasion that was enjoyed by many children: a tradition that seems to be becoming lost with time!

The month of May is an interesting month for gardeners when the efforts of the early season's labours become evident. Early potatoes will be showing growth above the soil, and may need earthing-up to protect them from late frosts that are still capable of creating considerable damage, not only to potatoes but other seedling plants. Be prepared to use some form of cover at night, fleece being very useful for this purpose.

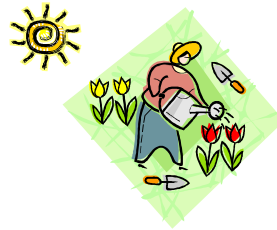
Mildew becomes a problem with warm days and cold nights. Many people are reluctant to use sprays, but this is the only sure way of preventing this problem. Many modern sprays are only very short lived, vegetables becoming edible twenty-four hours after spraying. This means a continuous check is needed for both fungi attacks and pests. All sprays will

carry instructions on use; read them carefully.

For a continuous supply of some vegetables, seed must be sown at various intervals: lettuce, radish, spring onions etc for pulling for salad. Sow seed of peas, parsnips, carrots, red beet and spinach. The seed of purple and white sprouting and broccoli can be sown towards the end of the month. The plants raised will produce crops for next spring. Make sure that you have the right varieties of any seeds for the seasons.

Sow seed of wallflowers, Canterbury bells and forget-me-nots. This should produce plants for planting out to over-winter.

Jack Bradley



Adult Learners Week
21-27 May
Watch out for events in and around
Worcester—you might learn something!

Records of the Parish Council meetings in the two parishes are not intended to be full minutes. Minutes of meetings can be seen by contacting the respective Clerks to the Councils

Village Contacts



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Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org.uk
Martley Parish Council	Chair: Dave Cropp—01886 888398; Clerk: Tom Pearsall—01886 888256
Martley WI	Pat Crook—01886 888550
Martley & Dist Hort. Soc.	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 <i>or</i> Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303, Sheila Richards— 01886 888378
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Counl.	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Secretary—Mike Holmes 01905 641739
Trefoil Guild	geraldine.cooper@btopenw orld.com