

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 16 No. 12

May 2007

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

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers meet Church car park

2nd Sunday in the month:

Walking Not Working with the Path-or-Nones. Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help survey the footpaths

Mondays

1st Monday in the month:

Martley Parish Council 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling 2.30pm Martley Memorial Hall (2pm winter months)

Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship 2.30pm
2nd Tuesday in the month (usually)

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing

7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

Martley Folk Club: 1st Wednesday in the month at The Admiral Rodney

Martley WI: 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm at Heaton House.

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

Martley & District Horticultural Society: last Thursday in the month
7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall

Weight Watchers

6.30 pm - 7.30 pm Martley Memorial Hall

Other events:

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

See Church Words for details of services

See articles inside for details of special events AND changes of times or dates of regular events

See the Diary page on

www.martley.org.uk for a complete listing of all forthcoming events (that the Diary page Editor knows about)

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



Celebrating May

May is named after the Greek goddess, Maia. The Anglo-Saxons called May Tri-Milchi in recognition that with the lush new grass cows could be milked three times a day. Their May day celebrations started on the eve of May, April 30. It was an evening of games and feasting, celebrating the end of winter and the return of the sun and fertility of the soil. Torch bearing peasants and villagers would wind their way up paths to the top of tall hills or mountain crags and then ignite wooden wheels, which they would roll

down into the fields. May Day was a raucous and fun time, electing a queen of the May from the eligible young women of the village, to rule the crops until harvest.

Besides the selection of the May Queen was the raising of the Maypole, around which the young single men and women of the village would dance holding on to the ribbons until they became entwined, with their (hoped for) new love.

May was traditionally considered an unlucky time to marry:

“Marry in May and you’ll rue the day.”

It was custom for every one to go a-Maying early on May Day. Herrick, a 17th century English poet, wrote: “There’s not a budding boy, or girl this day

But is got up, and gone to bring in May.”

Decorating houses

May Day began early in the morning. People would go out before sunrise to gather flowers and greenery to decorate their houses and villages with the belief that the vegetation spirits would bring good fortune.

Washing in the early morning dew

Girls would make a special point of washing their faces in the dew of the early morning. They believed this made them beautiful for the following year.

May Day Garlands

Young girls would make May Garlands. They covered two hoops, one at right angles inside the other, with leaves and flowers and sometimes they put a doll inside to represent the goddess of Spring.

There was once a tradition in England of 'lifting' where a gang of young men would lift a pretty girl in a flower bedecked chair on May Day. Then the girl would choose a boy on May 2.

Please turn to page 25 to learn more about the May Tree

Did you know

Did you know . . . that the Rodney Skittles Team recently scored 397 – the highest ever score on the Rodney Alley. Well done lads.

Did you know . . . that the magnificent new kitchen at the Village Hall is due almost entirely to the hard work of Neil Stammers, ably assisted by Harry King. Well done lads (and Eileen).

Did you know . . . that the lovely stage curtains in the Village Hall were significantly funded from money raised by Martley WI and the Show and Fete Committee. Well done to them as well.

Martley Spurs

The Saturday Premier side began March with a rest day, but the Sunday

sides both did very well on the fourth. The Premier eleven beat Excel FC four nil and the Reserves overcame Perrywood Reserves 3-1. There was still no fixture for the Premier side the following Saturday, but the Sunday teams both played. No result was published for the Premier eleven, but the Reserves were badly beaten by Ronkswood Sports.

The Saturday Premier side finally got a game again on the 17th and thrashed University of Worcester 5-1. Sunday morning produced a thrilling high scoring game with Trinity Lakes, which, unfortunately, the Spurs lost 5-4. The final weekend of the month saw the Saturday Premier eleven beat Hanley Swan 3-0 and the Sunday Premier side beat Archdales 4-3. The Reserves also notched up another win in their home match with Prinner Sports, they won by 3 goals to two, two of these being netted by Steve Pritchett.

League tables published at the beginning of the month showed the Saturday team still in second place, one point behind the leaders Upton Town, but with five games in hand. The Sunday eleven well above the halfway mark in their table, but the Reserves are still lagging towards the bottom of



their league. The future of the Saturday League is still in worrying doubt. With just one division this season, if more teams do not sign up for the Worcester League, it might disappear altogether.

We must all keep our fingers crossed and hope some teams will either come back or at least sign up again for next season.

Beth Williams

Martley Ramblers

10am Sunday 20 May
Church car park.

This is another morning walk, starting at 10am from the church car park to

follow the Two Paulines to Clifton upon Teme. What do members think about varying the time from the usual 2pm start? It is never possible to please all the people all the time, but we do try.

Please note, this month the walk will be on the third Sunday, due to an unavoidable change to the programme. Anyone is welcome to join us, no age restrictions, babies in back packs and well behaved dogs always welcome.

Kate King

Martley WI

Wednesday 9 May 7.30pm Heaton House.

We do not have a speaker for this meeting as it is the month we discuss and resolve the weighty measures that will go forward as Resolutions at the AGM at the Albert Hall in June. Do not despair and fear that it will be dull. It is always a surprise how strongly friends can feel about various matters. After we have all put our points of view, and told the delegate how to vote, we shall relax with cheese, nibbles and wine.

Then we will be forming into teams to make outfits from junk (materials provided). Do not forget to bring your cameras. Maybe we could have something to forward to WI Life for publications. Visitors are always welcome to come and join us.

The recent talk by David Barrie about travelling to Darjeeling by steam train was greatly enjoyed by members and visitors. It would be too far to go for our summer outing, but perhaps someone will come up with a similar idea a little closer to hand.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

Residents have been seriously considering requesting a road sign at the junction with B4197, stating it is a dead end, no turning places for all the immense lorries that continually get stuck and that it is single line only. Maybe there could also be some of



In the Garden



A wonderful month for growth, but still a slight risk of night frost. Have ready large sheets of newspaper for covering tender plants and stones to hold the sheets in place. Strawberry flowers and potato shoots are particularly at risk. Keep an eye on all plants in containers – rapid growth demands water. Sow salad and root crops, also runner and French beans and all winter greens. Keep up hoeing between crops, earth up potatoes as the tops develop. Sow Salsafy and Scorzonera, these need good ground – treat like carrots, they will need thinning to six-

nine inches apart. Water well in dry weather.

Greenhouse: sow Primulas, take cuttings of Poinsettias. Thin grapes, stop and tie down the shoots. Sow seeds of the Chimney Bell Flower in a cold frame – these plants will need to be in-wintered and re-potting three times. Beautiful blue or white flowers on six-foot plants in July/August of the following year.

Divide Polyanthus; lift bulbs, ripen off and store. Provide support for Sweet Peas, stake border plants. Continue to sow hardy and half-hardy annuals. Harden off all bedding plants. Watch for black fly on plums and cherries, also leaf blister on peaches and nectarines – pick the worst leaves off. Protect gooseberry buds from birds and treat for sawfly larvae if any found.

Tina Steele

those signs that are seen at the entrance to Industrial Estates showing a diagram of the properties and their names. This might then save having to explain to irate delivery men that they either have another one and a half miles to go or that they have come too far, due to no house name signs, and that they will have to back down the lane.

We are also seriously considering having a box at the gate for donations to Acorns Hospice for all the times we are bothered. Perhaps we could have a competition for a suitable design for

the road signs.

Spring has sprung and nesting birds have well-established routines, including several fugitive pairs of pheasants and Hop-Along, the one legged pigeon who has bothered us for the last three years.

Lay-by finds are consistent from month to month and are much as usual. Three girlie magazines (question – are these disposed of in case spouses or partners find them in the glove pocket?), numerous un-squashed drinks cans. Unwanted food, one unstoppered can of dirty engine



Diary of a Superdad

It was Easter and, like any good Superdad, I decided to treat everyone to a holiday in Cornwall.

Wifey did all the packing and God's nails can the woman pack. I turned my back and the car was full to overflowing with most of the contents of the house. We're off to West Looe not a car boot sale, I quipped. Wifey was not amused and nor were the boys who were now only just visible on the back seat beneath heaps of household paraphernalia.

Nevertheless, we set off on our three-hour epic journey, everyone happily stuffing their faces on wine gums and mints that I'd had the foresight to buy a little earlier.

West Looe is the prettier part of the two Looes on the Cornish coast and less heaving with tourists than East Looe. It's also full of wifey's relatives and one of them, Uncle Dave the crabber and plasterer [he's a dab hand at both, I was informed], offered to take us out for a morning on the high seas.

I've known wifey now for 20 years but it suddenly dawned on me that I had no idea about her Cornish roots or her broad knowledge of all things aquatic. But within minutes of jumping on Uncle Dave's little boat, she had taken over the steering and was

navigating above shoals of fish using the GPRS satellite, bypassing nasty reefs and bantering with Uncle Dave like a local. I stood wide eyed as she sparred with the old Cornishman about running for Pollack in the shallows, going out deep for shark and coasting for bass in the warmer waters.

Uncle Dave also gave the boys and me a running commentary about some of the odder tales from the area.

"See over that yonder island? Bleddy Germans bombed the beggar during the war, thinking t'was a battleship. Silly beggars frightened the hell out of the two old ladies living there. Blew out their windows. I don't think they even knew there was a war on. See that beach? A big whale beached up there and old Bob Tredinnick couldn't shift the beggar so he dynamited it. Whale's bits landed all over town." Uncle Dave laughed aloud at that one, but the joke seemed to be lost on the boys. Then, with the honesty of youth, my eldest suddenly said to me: "What's he saying Dad?" Neither of them had understood any of Uncle Dave's tales because of his thick Cornish brogue. Uncle Dave thought that was hilarious and laughed aloud again, joined by wifey still steering the boat. Unfortunately, it was then down to me to translate Uncle Dave to the boys for the rest of the morning.

Wifey, meanwhile, was navigating like a native among the various buoys that Uncle Dave had left out for crabs

and lobster. Suddenly, she'd slow the boat to a halt, jump over to Uncle Dave and start hauling up the crab pots, the Cornishman complaining that none of the local "maids" would do any crabbing anymore and could wifey come back down more often.

Soon we had crabs and a couple of mean looking lobsters spilling out of the bucket onto the deck of the boat. The boys chasing them and poking them with sticks, hauling them in the air as the crabs grabbed at them. Uncle Dave thought this was hilarious too. He even gave our youngest a star fish, but amid the delight of crab baiting the star fish was soon snatched and eaten by the lobster, who was far too serious for any fun and games, glinting at us malevolently with its black eyes. We kept well away. "Ee'll take your fingers off," Uncle

Dave laughed.

Soon we were back in port, wifey expertly taking us through the bar at the entrance to the harbour, while Uncle Dave chatted with her about Uncle Frank and Aunt Mavis and how the EU had killed off shark fishing and how the emits [tourists] were buying up all the properties etc.

Finally, as we all clambered out, wifey gave Uncle Dave a peck and told him she'd be back for bass fishing in the summer. I stood by still humbled by wifey's transformation from Worcester woman to Cornish sea maiden. The boys also look impressed, although they were more interested in feeding old chips to the increasingly sorry looking crabs.

Even wifey can have her super moments sometimes, I thought.

oil and surgical gloves, probably worn when changing the oil.

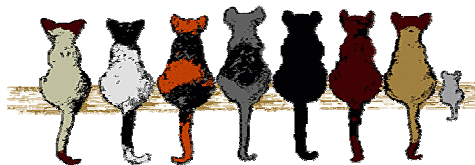
Breaking News: The 'Volunteer Lay-by Operative' has been told he will no longer be required, as the Lengthsman will take over his duties. We hope he will find it as interesting as his predecessor!

Kate King

Required – one feline ASBO

When my lovely black and white 14-year-old Kotchka gave up the ghost and went to cat heaven about three months ago, he was immediately replaced with a four inch bundle of grey

fur with white paws and a gorgeous white ruff round his neck. He was about a month old, and had been abandoned by his mother. His eyes were still bright blue, he was always hungry, purred like a locomotive and was enthralled by the moving images on TV, hanging upside down trying to catch them. His eyes turned to yellowish green, his little soft paws grew ever sharper claws and everything



from me to my older cat began to suffer.

He has ruined nearly all my lovingly tended houseplants and regularly climbs an eight foot rubber plant, bites the leaves off some and scratches up bulbs in potted plants on the patio. He chases flies on windowpanes and knocks off the plants on the sills.

The sofa has become a scratching post while he totally ignores the one purposely bought for that end, he pulls off the guards also specifically bought to protect furniture.

Reading, writing, typing have all become difficult, newspapers make a noise so they are great fun to jump on, pens are to be bitten as are books which make bedtime reading almost impossible.

Biting is one of his favourite habits, he loves shoes, slippers are fantastic as are my wrists, ankles, arms and legs which are now covered in tiny bites and scratches. He jumps on my head and climbs up jeans and jumpers, unrolls toilet and kitchen paper in 10 seconds flat and breaks the speed limit racing up and down the lawn, and regularly jumps out of one window and in through another – but he is really funny if one is closed, he always reverses in when I open a closed one to let him in.

He also has a fascination with liquids, I dare not leave a half empty glass or cup around. He loves the bathroom fixtures and has to be locked out while I am washing up. The fishpond, fortunately netted, has some special appeal. Although he looks and acts like a

white-footed rat in need of an ASBO, and is giving me and the old cat a nervous breakdown, somehow he is absolutely gorgeous when he spreads out across the back of the sofa and seems to smile at me, when he snuggles up under my armpit, purrs his little head off, sleeps on my lap or chases cotton reels. Everybody tells me this extremely sociable bundle of fur and love will grow out of his mad-cap habits; I am not entirely convinced!

Beth Williams

In Memoriam: Daisy Carabine

We are very sorry to hear that Daisy has died and send our deepest sympathy to her family and many friends. Daisy, who was born in Wales, had lived with her husband, Tom, for many years in Shelsley and in Martley. Tom served in the Durham Light Infantry, and they were long time supporters of the Royal British Legion. Daisy was a valued member of the Nora Parsons Day Centre, which she so much enjoyed and appreciated. Daisy was an extremely generous and kind person, and she will be remembered with deep affection. It was a joy to have known her.

Martley and District Horticultural Society

Mike Dunnet gave a most informative and helpful talk on 'How to prune and when to prune' for the March meeting.

Mike explained that pruning is the trimming of all growing plants and is done to encourage growth and health, to shape and restrict, and to remove diseased material. There are different methods of pruning, ie. in winter to dormant plants (encouraging spring growth); in summer (restricting growth); root pruning (a shock which makes fruit trees more productive) – a variation of this method being to chop off one side only of the root system every other year.

Mike stressed that good quality tools are essential. Keep secateurs in a pouch on your belt. There are specially shaped saws on the market, and Mike swears by his diamond sharpener for shears! Eye protection is a must, good strong gloves too. Mike advised care when using ladders and steps and gave members some accident statistics! He also explained the importance of feeding plants and trees, any type of food is better than none. An important point is to get light and air into the centre of the plant (here he demonstrated with a Hypericum).

Fruit tree twigs were passed round and Mike pointed out the difference between flower and fruit buds. Suckers should be pulled off – not cut. He went on to cover the treatment of numerous plants, bushes and trees – illustrating with slides, and ended with questions and a mini quiz. Mike has compiled a most useful guide to pruning and has copies available for a small donation to charity.

The Hyacinth Bulb competition placings were as follows: first Tina Steele,

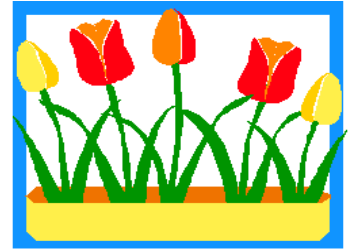
second Mrs Rena Davidson, third Mrs Pam Minchin.

Reminder – surplus plants needed for the Plant Sale on 26 May please, also suggestions for the 2008 programme would be most welcome. Talk to Pam Minchin or Margaret Jackson, joint secretaries.

Tina Steele

Spring Show

The Spring Show on 31 March meant the glorious scent of flowers



in our Village Hall, and colourful and amusing efforts in the children's section – their mothers being portrayed in verse and in paint. Some fascinating facts revealed. 'Lamb made from recycled material' produced some well-known breeds – Welsh Mountain could certainly be recognised, maybe North Country Cheviot too.

However, some exceedingly rare breeds were shown. Suspect a Scottish Blackface ram got in with a Teeswater ewe in one case!

Results of Flowers Classes:

Mr Mike Dunnet
Mrs Barbara Kirby
Mrs Sylvia Jefferies
Mr Dae Cropp
Mrs Judith O'Leary
Mrs Barbara Kirby
Mrs Sue Curren
Mrs Margaret Rushgrove
Mrs Margaret Jackson

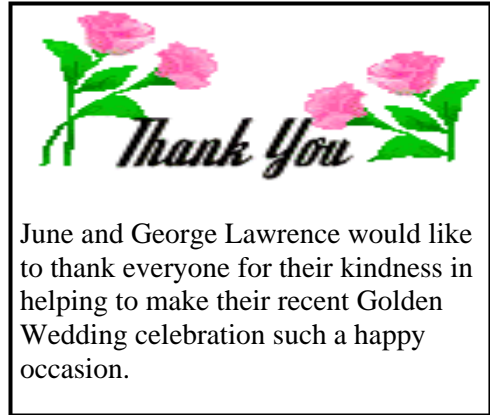
Mrs Rena Davidson
 Mrs Pam Minchin
 Mrs Pat Finch
 Mrs Annette Smith
 Mrs Pat Finch
 Mrs Margaret Jackson
 Mrs Pat Finch
 Mrs Margaret Jackson
 Mrs Dave Cropp
 Equal for 'Most Points' – Mrs Pat Finch and Mrs Margaret Jackson.
 Please do support this show another year, not many Martley people turned up and we have a great tradition of gardening in this parish!

Tina Steele

Martley's Past

1936, 22 April. At this meeting of the Parish Council, the clerk read two letters from the Martley Rural District Council dated 12 and 25 February respectively with reference to the alleged dangerous corner in Church Lane, and these pointed out that no further action could be taken as the owner had refused to give or sell any portion of his garden ground.

Also at this meeting, the following minute was recorded: "Charges of SW & S Power Company". 'After discussion it was proposed by Mr Howlett and seconded by Mr Rowley 'That a letter be written from Martley Parish Council to the SW & S Power Co calling attention to the high rate of charges, and respectfully requesting them to reducing the said charges from 8d (3.3p) to 6d (2.5p) per unit for light and from 1 1/2d (0.6p) to 1 1/4d (0.5p)



June and George Lawrence would like to thank everyone for their kindness in helping to make their recent Golden Wedding celebration such a happy occasion.

per unit for power'. Carried. (If only today!) The following Parish Councils were to be asked to support by letter to the company the above resolution: Wichenford, Clifton-upon-Teme, Broadwas, Great Witley and Knightwick. Agreed.

A L Boon

In memoriam: Peter Wenman May 23, 1931 - March 22, 2007

The following is the eulogy by Canon Bill Richards at Peter Wenman's Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's, Martley 30th March 2007.

'A village community has its own established way of ordering its life and the various players are well known and long accepted.

An incomer wishing to get stuck in can easily become unstuck.

It is a measure of Peter's character that his brain child 'Music in Martley' (a project entirely new to Martley in its artistic scope) gained such wide appeal

with this community.

It had smokey jazz pub nights, elegant garden concerts, school music competition, Humphrey Lyttleton and other luminaries in the Chantry school big hall, and packed (even crushed) concerts in this church involving professional and local music makers.

Peter was a very effective amateur impresario. More importantly, however, he just loved to give our village a really great night out.

I believe the village responded because it trusted him. Peter certainly did it for Martley, not for Peter. And we can only guess at the round-the-year work arranging artists, venues, equipment, food, loans, printing, seeking grants, chasing up late payers and so on.

Peter gave us some great events and the village acknowledged it with gratitude - despite the fact that he had just come from Kent in 1981.

Those who knew Peter in his Martley years have realised the close devoted relationship he shared with Jackie - and they with their family - and we admired them both.

Our thoughts are very much with Jackie today and in the coming weeks. Jackie was the heart of Peter's life.

As a lad, Peter had served as an altar boy in his local Church and he retained through life an appreciation of the Anglican Christian Faith. So it was possible for me to speak briefly with Peter about dying, as a priest does with those who wish it.

There is a profound prayer that Jesus

prayed as he died. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." It is a prayer that any of us of us can pray - at the end of the day, at the start of the day, in the middle of troubles over which we seem to have no control, whenever outcomes are unclear. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"

In that spirit we trust Peter - and indeed his family - into God's hands.'

Bill Richards 2007

A note from the webmaster - Richard Jackman.

I feel very privileged to have been involved with him and Music in Martley. Where else would I have had the opportunity to help set up shows for Helen Shapiro, George Melly, Chas & Dave and King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys - "How come everybody seems to know each other in this town?" - as well as the sensational church concerts?

With very fond memories, thank you
Peter

Richard

Martley Library

Martley Village Hall, Berrow Green
Road, Martley, WR66PQ.

Tel: 01886 888396

Opening hours

Mon 2.00-7.00

Wed 4.00-7.30

Thurs 10.00-1.00

Fri 2.00-4.00

Sat 10.00-12 noon



Martley Web Mesh

News update

At the beginning of April, the mail server (that provides members with

email addresses) was upgraded and moved to a new location where it should be less vulnerable to power cuts and other causes of interruption to service – we apologise for any inconvenience whilst this was happening. We tried to time this to coincide with interruptions to the power supply caused by the power company trimming trees around Martley.

There is something in Martley that seems to be broadcasting intermittently on the same frequency that we use for MWM (channel 1). Unfortunately it overrides our signal causing interference or loss of signal to some people. If anyone can throw any light on this, please let us know as it might help us to improve the service to affected members! Call John Layton on 01886 888460 or Tom Pearsall on 01886 888256.

Our “techies” have recently been talking to colleagues in Shelsley Beauchamp with a view to extending web mesh provision to their area and they have also been looking at the possibility of extending in the Clifton direction.

If anyone is interested in becoming more involved in running MWM,

which is a voluntary organisation, on the technical or admin side, please contact John or Tom, or any board member – especially if you like heights and enjoy climbing ladders! I am told that there are wonderful views to be had from peoples’ rooftops!

AGM

We will be holding our AGM at 7.30pm on Friday 11 May 2007 in the Committee Room (the library) of the Martley Memorial Hall. All members should have received individual notification by now and we will be very pleased to see you there.

If you’re not a member yet and want to find out more about MWM, there is loads of information about MWM on the Martley website (martley.org.uk) on the Broadband page.

Michelle Higgins

1 Vernon Close
Martley
Worcester
WR6 6QX

Teme Valley Views from the Teme Valley Children’s Centre

Could you be a volunteer driver?

An important part of the Children’s Centre’s role is developing links with families who need extra support. Families either ‘refer’ themselves to us or someone else, such as their Health Visitor, approaches us on their behalf.

Our staff develop good working relationships with the families and 'signpost' them to other services available to them. A number of these families live in rural areas and do not have access to a car during a day and, therefore, accessing the services available is extremely difficult.

At the moment the Children's Centre staff provide transport to any services and facilities thought to be necessary; however, this can only be a short-term solution as we need our highly qualified staff to help as many families as possible. We are, therefore, looking for a number of caring, competent volunteers who are willing to provide transport for families or children to outreach venues.

Volunteers need to have a full driving licence, preferably without endorsements, and a reliable car with front and rear seatbelts fitted. Training in carrying children will be provided and all volunteers will be CRB checked. The Children's Centre will provide expenses.

This is an extremely valuable service for the community, so if you are interested please contact Sam at the Children's Centre on 01886 812982. In addition, if you, or someone you know, might benefit from extra support the Children's Centre may be able to help, please contact us on the number above.

For more information about the work of the Children's Centre please contact us at 01886 812982 or visit our website at www.temevalley-cc.org.uk

Malvern Hills District Councillor

I'm happy to say that I am being returned as your Malvern Hills District Councillor unopposed for the Martley Ward (Martley, Wichenford and Kenswick) in May, so hence there will be no district council election on May 3rd.

However, the election of Martley parish councillors will still be held.

I would like to take this opportunity in saying how much I have enjoyed representing you as your Malvern Hills District Councillor and am looking forward to the next four years.

If you wish to speak to me at anytime on any local issues etc, feel free to contact me on; 01886 888120 or my e-mail:

barbara.williams@malvern hills.gov.uk
Kindest regards,

Cllr Barbara Williams.

Letters to the editor

Dear Sir,

It was with dismay that I read in the April edition of The Villager Magazine that Martley Parish Council minutes will no longer be published.

I noted in the Wichenford Parish Council minutes published in the magazine that that Council is happy for the minutes to be edited providing a proviso is put in explaining this.

Is it not possible for Martley Parish Council to do the same?

If the Parish Council wishes people in the village to take part in the community, I feel that one way of encouraging this community spirit is for the villagers to know what the Parish Council are discussing. I also appreciate that the minutes can be read on the Parish website, but not everyone has access to a computer and it is much easier to sit down with a cup of tea and read the magazine.

I would ask that this decision is reconsidered.

Yours faithfully

Janet Dale

Re Martley Memorial Hall

I read with interest the article in the April issue of THE VILLAGER and would like to point out that no grants were obtained for replacement of the curtains. The curtains and tracks on the stage were totally unusable due to the tracks being for domestic use and credit should be given to Pam Minchin who as a committee member suggested that Martley Show & Fete gave £500 towards the stage track & curtains, the WI also raised nearly £200 for the same items. The remainder of the money had been accumulated by various means such as Barn Dances etc and the efforts of the treasurer Reg Snow who claimed back Tax from donations.

As an ex member of the Hall committee I am disgusted that the Chairman/committee hasn't had the courtesy of thanking Harry King for all the long hours he put in during the kitchen refurbishment and Harry isn't even on

the committee. I as a committee member did the work as part of my duty and it is a pity that only one other member assisted, there were two other people who gave up two days of their hard earned holiday at the commencement as there were no detailed plans of what went where so they listed all the units and designed a kitchen with the available units. Due to the fact that there were no plans I had to take £600 worth of units back which could not be fitted.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the committee of allowing me to HIRE the Hall for our birthday party in recognition of all the hard work, fuel, fixings etc that I donated.

Neil Stammers



Mobile Library

The mobile library visits Wichenford on the first Wednesday of every month. We do not want to lose it, so please use it.

Wichenford, Malvern View

10am-10.30am

Wichenford Church

10.35am-11am

Wichenford, Kings Green Farm

11.05am-11.35am

Wichenford, Rosses Green

11.40am-12.10pm



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS



Janet Andrews
01886 888303

Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Altar flowers

May 6 Mrs Root
May 13 Rogation Sunday – outdoor
Service
May 20 Mrs Whyatt
May 27 Mrs Wetherall

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship will meet at 2.30pm
on 15 May. Venue to be arranged

Coffee Morning

Mrs Wetherall is hoping to host a Coffee Morning on 15 May, for Christian Aid in Wichenford. Venue to be arranged.

Open Gardens

The Wichenford gardens will be open during the weekend of 23 and 24 June. Lunches and teas will be available.

Birthday Congratulations

Many congratulations to Lucy Jones who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. We wish her many happy returns.

Are you serious?

*The following is a letter from Malvern Hills District Council to the Postmistress, Martley Post Office
Dated 1 April 2007.*

Dear Postmistress,

As you are probably aware Malvern Council are about to carry out inspections of business premises to make sure that they meet the required standard for health and safety and cleanliness.

To this end there are a few issues that we wish to take up with yourself. Although strictly speaking we are only concerned with the off licence and shop adjacent to the post office, we do feel that there are some serious health and safety issue, plus some possible improvements that you need to be aware of in your area – to be referred to in future as ‘the cubicle’.

The Health and Safety issues are as follows:

Your area is severely overcrowded. As well as yourself there seems to be a family of Teddy Bears who also live in

the cubicle with you. I have checked my records and there seems to be no evidence of any planning permission to provide 'family' accommodation.

The balloons at the front of the cubicle window have gathered copious amounts of dust. This could pose a serious health hazard to any one in the queue that is allergic to balloon dust.

Hair curling tongs and chocolate fountains have in the past been a cause of obstruction in the cubicle. In the event of a fire we have to ask ourselves would the bears get out safely.

The concerns above relate only to your particular post office and not for other post offices in your area. Indeed, some post offices in your locality have managed to provide an excellent and fast service to their customers WITH NO HELP WHATSOEVER FROM TEDDY BEARS!

Possible improvements that we recommend:

Keeping the post office cleaner – for example, stamps could be brushed lightly with a feather duster once a week, Teddy Bears could be dry cleaned once a month and mail sacks could be steam-cleaned on a regular basis.

Tea and coffee could be provided for people in the queue. Decaffeinated to be provided for very jittery customers or customers who have been in the queue for over 5 hours.

At really busy times – at the end of the month etc – newspapers (and indeed novels, for faster readers) could be provided in addition to refreshments.

Relaxing music could be played on

days that the queue is likely to reach to petrol pumps outside.

Oxygen (from the dusty balloons perhaps) could be provided for very elderly customers who need a little extra to get them home after a long time in the queue.

Have the message "pay father for the photocopying" taped so that customers using the photocopying machine can listen to it on a set of headphones. This will save customers in the queue listening to this message over and over again.

Make the slot that the letters have to fit through a LOT wider. This will lead to a significant rise in satisfied customers. Perhaps one of the bears is handy with a set of tools?

Finally we would like to point out that is important AT ALL TIMES to remain courteous to your customers. After all they are ALWAYS right! Most people want a trip to the post office to be a friendly and relaxing experience. Some post offices in your area are already providing a fast but stress free post office experience!

As far as customers go it is a case of 'soothe them or lose them'!

Yours faithfully,

Mr Well Wisher

Reply:

To whoever sent this letter, a message from the Postmistress's Teddy Bears:

'We feel upset and victimised over this letter sent to our owner, so we would urge all Teddy Bear lovers to support our Post Office.

Mary



May Tree

The Hawthorn (*Crataegus mongyna*), Whitethorn, Haegthorn, Quickthorn or May Tree, is one of the most wild, enchanted and sacred of our native trees. Known as the "faerie tree", this beautiful, often gnarled, thorny little tree can live to a great age, and can be found growing in the wildest and harshest of spots. It grows all over Europe, Greece, North Africa and Western Asia and is rich in folklore and legend.

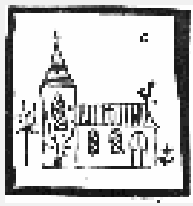
The Hawthorn's many names reflect its uses and properties; Haegthorn is Anglo-Saxon and refers to its use as a hedging plant, and Quickthorn referring to the live hedge or boundary formed by living plants of Hawthorn. Whitethorn refers to the lightness of its bark, contrasted with blackthorn's black bark. In many old tales it is simply referred to as the Thorn, as in "Oak, Ash and Thorn", a particularly

potent combination of trees if found growing together. Often it is viewed warily, because of its thorns, and because it is said to be the haunt of faeries, elemental and enchantments.

The most common folk name we have for the

Hawthorn is the May Tree. The May blossom appears on the tree at the beginning of May in the south of England, at the time of the Beltane or May Day celebrations, when people and houses were decked with may blossoms ("bringing home the May"). The popular rhyme "Here we go gathering nuts in May" is thought to have been sung by the young men, gathering not "nuts" (which do not grow in May) but "knots" of may blossoms for the May Day Celebrations. These celebrations included a May Queen, representing the Goddess, and a Green May, representing the God and the spirit of the new vegetation. It was known as the "Merry Month" and folk went about "wearing the green", decking themselves in greenery and may blossom.

The cutting of the may blossom had great significance and symbolised the beginning of new life and the onset of the growing season. The ceremony of the maypole and maypole dancing, is symbolic of renewed life and union.



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 833897

May – a time of growth, a time when we see the signs of partnership between God and nature. In the Church's year we celebrate Rogation to give thanks to God for the first fruits of the field as well as making it an opportunity to share fellowship and neighbourly companionship as we walk around the countryside. This year our Rogation Service will be on Sunday 13th May at 11am at the home of Tom and Tara Walker – Ankerdine Farm. You are welcome to join us – bring your picnic lunch and walking boots! Thank you to Tom and Tara for the use of their barn.

“Thank yous” are due to all across the benefice of Martley, Wichenford and the Lower Teme Valley for everyone supported and helped me during David's absence. It was a busy time, and David was greatly missed. It was also a time, however, which enabled many within our Churches to grow - growing in the sense that they have perhaps found a role for themselves or been able to establish themselves in a particular area of ministry. For example, all our Family Worship Teams seem to be more energised and have a new found confidence, while other people now assist with Home Communion.

May heralds the season of Fairs, Fetes

and other outdoor events and you are all invited to the Martley Church Spring Fayre on Saturday 12th May, from 2.00 – 4.00pm on The Glebe.

Holiday time too is upon us, May Day being the first one, although it comes on 7th May this year! Not only a day ‘off’ but a day to reflect on the contribution each person makes to the life as we know it of our nation regardless of the area of our labour. We are beginning to realise more and more the need for partnership with God, with Creation itself as well as with one another as we become aware of the effects of global warming and CO2 emissions. There is a call to work together to preserve our environment.

It is one thing to hear the words of warning, but quite another to play our own part as it probably means giving up something which we have taken for granted up to now, changing our thinking and our life-style. This, of course, reflects the message of Jesus Christ who gave up his life for us, who encourages us to repent, to turn round and ‘Come’ in the opposite direction. To come and follow him, not to hardship and gloom, but on the way to a better life of renewed hope, joy and freedom in the knowledge that we can all experience a deep sense of the presence of God in our lives now as well as his peace, which passes all understanding.

Church Diary for May

- Tuesday 1st May 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Sunday 6th May 8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.00am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley
11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridg
- Monday 7th May Bank Holiday
- Wednesday 9th May 10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
- Thursday 10th May 2.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter, Martley
- Saturday 12th May 8.30-10am Men's Breakfast at The Talbot with David Harper of Top Barn
2.00-4.00pm Martley Church Spring Fair
- Sunday 13th May 11.00am Rogation Service at Ankerdine Farm the home of Tom and Tara Walker
- Monday 14th May 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory
- Thursday 17th May 2.00pm Pastoral Team meeting at the Rectory
6.00pm BBQ for Christian Aid at St. Peter's, Martley, followed by
8.00pm Deanery Ascension Day Service at St. Peter's
- Saturday 19th May 9.30-1.30 PCC Awayday at The Guesten, Worcester
Go West walk – Bransford Bridge to Berrow Green
- Sunday 20th May 8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
9.00am Matins, St Leonard Cotheridge
11.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
11.00am Morning Worship, St Peter, Martley
3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel
6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Laurence, Wichenford
- Monday 21st May 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
- Tuesday 22nd May 7.30pm LTV PCC at Knightwick Village Hall
- Wednesday 23rd May 10.15am Holy Communion at Heaton House
7.30pm Warden's Admission Service, Pershore Abbey
- Sunday 27th May 8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
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
- Monday 28th May Bank Holiday

Coming events

Witley Court Event - Behind the Scenes Tours - 1st & 3rd

Venue: Witley Court
Phone: 01299 896636
Website: <http://tinyurl.co.uk/q7b2>
From: 1 May 2007
To: 3 May 2007

Malvern in Bloom 2007 - Children's Art Competition - download an entry form and rules from the website link. Entries to be returned to Malvern TIC by 8th June 2007.

Venue: Malvern
Phone: 01684 892289
Website: <http://tinyurl.com/yvj89g>
From: 1 May 2007
To: 31 May 2007

Upton Folk Festival - Around the town & pubs

Venue: Upton Upon Severn
E-Mail: boxoffice@uptonfolk.org
Phone: 01684 594200
Website: <http://www.uptonfolk.org>
From: 4 May 2007
To: 7 May 2007

NT Event Croome Park - Spring Fayre 11am-4pm

Venue: Croome Park
Phone: 01905 371006
Website: <http://tinyurl.co.uk/pci0>
From: 6 May 2007
To: 7 May 2007

Eastnor: 'Armouritis' - Arms & Armour - & Medieval Re-enactment Weekend

Venue: Eastnor Castle, nr. Ledbury
E-Mail: enquiries@eastnorcastle.com
Phone: 01531 633160
Website: <http://www.eastnorcastle.com>
From: 6 May 2007
To: 7 May 2007

Dance - Simply Ballroom hosted by Lionel Blair

Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277
Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 7 May 2007
To: 12 May 2007

Spring Gardening Show - In association with the RHS. The first major gardening show of the season.

Venue: Three Counties Showground
E-Mail: info@threecounties.co.uk
Phone: 01684 584900
Website: <http://www.threecounties.co.uk>
From: 10 May 2007
To: 13 May 2007

Play - Rik Mayall in The New Statesman by Laurence Marks & Maurice Gran

Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277
Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>
From: 14 May 2007
To: 19 May 2007

For Children - The Elves & the Shoemaker

Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277
Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>
From: 19 May 2007
To: 19 May 2007

Charity Event - St Richard's Hospice: 23rd ANNUAL WALKS on the MALVERN HILLS.

Venue: Malvern Hills
E-Mail: Appeals@strichards.org.uk
Phone: 01905 763963
Website: <http://www.strichards.org.uk>
From: 19 May 2007
To: 19 May 2007

Eastnor: Country & Steam Fair - inc. "Made in Herefordshire"

Venue: Eastnor Castle, Ledbury
E-Mail: enquiries@eastnorcastle.com
Phone: 01531 633160
Website: <http://www.eastnorcastle.com>
From: 27 May 2007
To: 28 May 2007

Elgar 150th Birthday - Opening concert by ESO Symphony Orchestra

Venue: Worcester Cathedral
E-Mail: info@eso.co.uk
Phone: 01386 791044
Website: <http://www.eso.co.uk>

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 | Gwynn Darby—01886 888490 |
| 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 |