

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 17 No. 12

May 2008

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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

3rd Sunday in the month:

Path-or-Nones meet 9.30am Martley Memorial Hall car park to help maintain the local footpaths

Mondays

Rhythm Time: 9.30-11.30am Martley Memorial Hall Enq. Rachel 01886 812565

Martley Parish Council: 1st Monday in the month 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling: 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

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

Martley Mums and Tots: 9.30-11.30am
Martley Memorial Hall

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing:
7pm Martley Memorial Hall Enq. Jeff & Thelma 01886 821772

Martley Folk Club: 1st Wednesday in the month at The Talbot, Knightwick

Martley WI: 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm 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

See Church Words on page 27 for details of services

See articles inside for details of special events AND changes of time/date/venue of regular events

See page 28 for contact details of organisations

See also the Diary page of the Martley website www.martley.org.uk

Articles to go in The Villager must be submitted by the 1st of the

Cover picture shows "sweet necklace" that won 1st prize at the Martley Hort. Soc. Spring Show in March.

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



The Spring Show

The Martley and District Horticultural Society Spring Show was as usual a delightful occasion, with superb specimens on view, but sadly entries were down by half this year, probably owing to the bitter cold winds of late. Gorgeous hellebores, flowering shrubs and many varieties of daffodils were particularly eye-catching. Class winners as follows: 1 Margaret Rushgrove; 2 Dave Cropp; 3 Pam Minchin; 4 Dave Cropp; 5 Judith O'Leary; 6 P Turner; 7 Margaret

Jackson; 8 Margaret Rushgrove; 9 Mike Dunnett; 10 Margaret Jackson; 11 Pam Minchin; 12 Mike Dunnett; 13 Judith O'Leary; 14 Dave Cropp; 15 Margaret Jackson; 16 Mike Dunnett; 17 Barbara Kirby; 18 P Turner. Margaret Jackson was awarded 'most points'.

The five children's classes were well-supported, and included excellent efforts with pictures and poetry. What imaginations these youngsters have! Flowers, eggs, rabbits, lambs etc. being featured and it was obvious that chocolate was a very important ingredient.

However, the true meaning of Easter shone through too. The class for container cress was very colourful, and the 'sweet' necklace class should give Cartier cause for concern—diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but you can't eat them when you've missed the last bus home.

Thanks to all helpers, especially those who manned stalls and to those who kindly donated plants and cakes for sale.

The Society will be grateful for



Prize-winning entry by Dave Cropp

anything—shrubs, flowers and vegetables surplus to your needs. We are open to suggestions for future talks, garden visits etc. too. There is a possibility of sharing a coach trip to Kew with Wichenford Heritage Group on 17 May. The Heritage Group will be researching in the Record Office, while others could tour the gardens. 01886-888206 for details.

Tine Steele



***The Plant Sale is on
Saturday 24 May at the
Memorial Hall at 2 pm.***

Members will be on duty to
receive plants 9am-1pm.



Martley WI

**Wednesday 14 May, 7.30pm,
Heaton House**

Firstly and most importantly, many congratulations to Julia Roberts on her election as County Chairman. Well done, Julia! Martley WI has not had such an important personage as a member since it was formed in the 1920s.

Didn't we have a lovely time when Brian Draper came to talk about the River Teme? It was so nice to welcome members from our Link Institute, Tenbury St Michael and other visitors as well. Brian has so

many tales of the riverbank and surrounding areas, we feel we want to take off and visit them. We are, however, staying firmly in Martley this month to discuss the resolutions for the AGM in Liverpool on 4 June. This is never a dull meeting as it is always interesting to hear everyone's point of view. The competition is "Tell us of family sayings" (preferably not rude ones).

Kate King

Martley Ramblers

11 May, 2pm, Church car park

There was a lot of huffing and puffing when Helen and George Coombey-Jones led us up, over and around Shavers End and Abberley Hills. With the strong wind blowing, any cobwebs lingering after New Year excesses were certainly blown away. Many thanks to them both for a "breathtaking" walk!

This month we MAY be on more level ground when the Two Paulines lead us around Guarlford and Hanley Swan, but we shall have to wait and see.

Kate King

Quiz Night

Friday 9 May

Following the success of the autumn one, a spring Quiz Night will be held in Martley Village Hall on Friday 9 May. Action gets underway at 7.30pm. Teams of four, tickets cost £5 per head, including supper. Everyone, including youngsters, is invited.

Please get your tickets or let us know if you are taking part—we need to

know how many to cater for—by contacting Richard McHugh at the Central Stores, any member of the Hall Committee, or Dave Cropp on 01886-888398.

Martley Spurs

Better news this month. The Spurs are into the final of the Katherine Rayer Cup after beating Arrow 2000 2-1 in the semi-final on the first of the month. However, they lost their Phipps Cup semi-final 2-1 to Upton Town. Over the same weekend the Reserves beat HDNL Sports 2-0, both goals netted by Steve Prickett. Saturday 9th saw a win over Hanley Swan by 4 goals to 1. The following morning the Sunday Premier side really thrashed Tolladine Sports 7-2, but the Reserves lost 4-1 to FC XI.

Once again the Saturday eleven won their game on the 15th, this time by three goals to two over VBL Sports. Many matches were postponed due to water-logged pitches on the 16th, the only game played on the 16th saw the Sunday Premier side draw three all with CMB Sports, all three being netted by Richard Taylor.

The weekend of the 22nd/23rd saw the Saturday boys draw one all with VBL Sports and the Sunday Premier side draw with Powick, the only goal for the Spurs notched by Carl Smith. A black mark against the Spurs this month caused by Daryl Gormley who has been disciplined by the Worcestershire FA and is banned from playing from 24 March until 30 March. My Villager deadline means I

am writing this prior to the final weekend games but results will appear in next month's issue.

Beth Williams

Ernie Freeman

It is with sadness that we report the death on 22 February of Ernie Freeman. Ernie and his wife, Margaret, lived in St Johns and were introduced to Martley some years ago by their friends Ted and Wendy Davis. Ernie was a skilful member of the Bowls Club and a Vice President of the Horticultural Society. When a "volunteer" for putting up tents, selling raffle tickets (ably assisted by Margaret), directing traffic etc. was required, our Ernie was your man. He was a true friend of our village and his cheerful presence will be greatly missed by all who were privileged to know him. We send our sincere condolences to Margaret and his family.

PM

Martley Pre-School Snippets

The topic this term is Fairy Stories. The children have loved role-play in their castle, which has helped to develop social skills and friendships, introduced the enjoyment of early literacy as well as developing the children as keen storywriters themselves.



Our Heart of Martley Appeal has

raised over £3000 towards our heating and electrical modernisation, but we have a long way to go until we hit our £15,000 target. As we are a registered charity, we do not have a reserve of funds and have already had to replace the boiler (thanks to a very competitive quote from Nathan Plant, heating engineer), which failed on us just before Easter.

You can safeguard the Pre-School's future and donate at Martley Pre-School, Post Office, and the Admiral Rodney and Central stores. A big 'thank you' to Chantry High school pupils. A non-uniform day helped raise £609 for our appeal. We would also like to say thanks to Pauline, Graham and Jenny Baldwin, RWH and PA Booth, Coversure, Active Digital Systems, G. Herbert Banks, D & J Wright, E Albutt, the Muller family, Rogers Coaches, the Eggleton family, Melanie Williams, Mary and Kevin Burton, R Powell, Taymar and Tom Pearce-Mason, Shulah MacDonald and family, the Mulcahy family, J Edwards, R F Amies (Builders), D Taylor and Premier Timber & Builders Merchants. THANK YOU.

I am glad to announce that I have achieved Early Years Professional Status (accreditation with University of Worcester and the Children's Workforce Development Council). I am now one of sixteen in the county, who aim to raise the quality of Early Years provision and lead other practitioners in doing so too. I would like to thank Sandra Sharratt, who

allowed me to visit Clifton Early Years Centre to observe children under two years of age.

A warm welcome to Elliott Hall, Jai Lambourne, Myles Robson and Matilda Mulcahy, who all start Pre-School this month. Children can attend from their second birthday, and we also run a popular breakfast club (8-9 am) and after school club (3.15-6pm) for children age 2 to 13 years. If you are interested in a place for your child, please contact Kath or Lucy on 01886 889127.

Kathryn Smith BA (Hons) FdA

Attention dog walkers!

As Parish Paths Warden for Martley, landowners phone me about mis-use of their land by dogs and dog-walkers. Dog-walkers are reminded that dogs have to be under control at all times; dogs may accompany people on footpaths (but have no rights themselves). People have to keep to the curtilage of the path: being usually 1m wide across a field and 1.5m wide (from hedge centre) at field edge. Unless they get permission from the farmer or landowner, people and dogs are NOT allowed to wander about in fields.

I am hoping to arrange with Martley Library Link for them to hold some booklets and leaflets about the Country Code and a list of these publications can be found linked from the About Martley page on www.martley.org.uk.

J Nicklin

In Search of Henry Taylor's Family

Dear Editor,

I am trying to trace the ancestors of Henry Taylor, my great-great-grandfather whom, I believe, was the Henry Taylor christened in St Clement's Parish, Worcester in 1799. His mother was Anne Taylor, whom I understand was christened in Martley in 1777. Her parents were James and Ann Taylor. She married Edward Solsbury in 1800 at St Clement's, so he was probably the father of her child.

Henry became a bricklayer and was married in Hallow in 1828 to Sarah Bouton or Boughton. Their only son John was born in St Clements in 1832 and Henry died in Hallow the same month. His age was recorded as 26 which would have been incorrect, but as I have eliminated all the Henry Taylors I could find who would have been 26 in 1832 or thereabouts, it does look as though Anne Taylor's son must be my ancestor.

Henry and Sarah were both 'of this parish' when they married in 1832 in Hallow, but there is no baptism entry in Hallow. I have checked other parishes and also records at County Hall. Sarah and their son John settled in St Clements after she was widowed for the second time. Their descendants remained there until the 20th century.

Any information from your readers that might help to confirm, correct or add to my findings would be greatly appreciated. My telephone number is 01926-854142. Or please leave written

items at Martley Post Office, marked for my attention c/o the Editor.

Anne Scotcher (Mrs)

Martley & District Horticultural Society

'Taking Cuttings' was the subject of Hilary Twigg's talk at the March meeting. Hilary has long been associated with Pershore College of Horticulture and is well-qualified to lecture as she is also a Royal Horticulture Society Advisor.

Hilary started by saying "If it works for you – carry on!" She continued with the use of materials for cuttings: plastic pots, oasis, compost and, of course, water. Nutrients are important (water only makes roots) and any compost must be free of bacteria and infections. Pots and trays can be washed in Jeyes Fluid or bleach. Even secateurs can carry harmful bacteria. Air is needed in compost, particularly at the base, so add sand and grit. 'Multi-purpose' is OK, or own compost. Hilary surprised us by saying don't dip cuttings in hormone rooting powder – "worst thing you can do!" It contains fungicide, and often gets old and out-of-date on the shelf. She brought shrub samples and demonstrated the de-leaving and inserting procedure, giving tips all the time and passing round the prepared twigs. Willow (hardwood) will even root upside down! We learned which months suited different types of plants for propagation, and about nodules and internodes, watering and, of course, labelling and dating the cuttings. We

were also told never to wiggle cuttings to check for roots! Cuttings need light, some need heat, some (eg. clematis) can be taken from runners. Rambler roses usually 'take' very well, also pinks. Hilary finished with general garden advice and answered members' questions. She gave Margaret Jackson first prize for the Hyacinth Competition, with Jane and Dave Cropp second and third. A very pleasant and educational evening. Lastly, Martley and District Horticultural Society's team came first in the recent Quiz!

Tina Steele



Teme Valley Views

When the Children's Centre first started, it was clear that communication was going to be a key issue. Our 'catchment' area includes over 100 square miles of Worcestershire countryside! A monthly newsletter and contributions to parish magazines helped us to contact many parents, but the Internet is often the first place that people go to for up-to-date information.

Our website started small, but more was needed. Over the past few months we have been updating and increasing the size of our website. During this period some sections have become out of date, and we apologise, but hope the new version is an improvement.

The 'Childcare Groups' tab now includes two sections – 'Childcare'

and 'Parent and Infant' – and we have introduced a coding system to show the ages catered for by each group, which we hope will be useful. Contact details and information about nurseries and preschools can be found in the 'Childcare' section, whilst any events for accompanied children are shown in the 'Parent and Infant' section. Monthly events – Children's Centre visits and toddler group fundraisers – can be found in the regularly updated 'Events' section.

Our website can be found at www.temevalley-cc.org.uk and we hope that you find the new content informative. If you would like to hear more about the Children's Centre please contact Sam on 01886 812982 or pick up a copy of our monthly newsletter, Teme Valley Views.

Clerk Wanted!

Martley Church of England Primary School requires someone to act as Clerk to the governing body. The appointed person will serve on both full governing body and at finance meetings. There are two governing body meetings a term, lasting an hour-and-a-half on average. The applicant should possess accurate minute-taking skills, the ability to summarise salient points and issues and should also have a strong awareness of the need to respect the confidentiality of governors' meetings. The rate of pay is in the region of £850 per annum. Please contact Mrs Helen Davies, Headteacher of Martley Primary School.

Pudford Lane

Another departure, but not totally permanent as, although Simon Jefferies has joined the Marines, he will certainly be returning for visits to family and friends. We wish him well in his new career. One cannot say the area is quiet as the lovely country sounds of birds singing, lambs and ewes bleating and cockerels crowing can be heard at all times.

Hillend SSSI is blooming well to date with marvellous wild flowers standing up to the extremes of temperature. Even the cottage daffodils all over the meadow refused to get blown over in the March gales. Not so welcome are the two pairs of nesting pheasants as they consume all the caterpillars that we would like to see turn into butterflies and moths.

There are two growing problems with traffic. Firstly excessive speeding on the narrow, twisty single-track lane. Please slow down. Secondly, the numbers of exceptionally large delivery lorries are increasing, with drivers searching in vain for premises that are situated in Hillend Bridge Lane, but addresses are given as Pudford Lane. Sat Navs do differentiate between the two lanes. Drivers who have to reverse for long distances are often not very happy and so much damage is being done to the banks and ditches.

Lay-by produce has been the usual sandwiches and unwanted lunches, but Carling Black Label has been the

The Agricultural Labourers' Union

choice this month, closely followed by vodka and gin. As the operative collects and bags the rubbish, surely MHDC, the Parish Council or the Lengthman could collect and dispose of the bags so that the squirrels and foxes do not tear them open. That's this month's soapbox finished. Sorry.

Kate King

Italian Wine and Cheese Evening

If you enjoy such delicacies keep the evening of 20 June free – Martley Village Hall is the place to be. Further information will be in the June issue of The Villager.

Martley Annual Parish Meeting

Sat. 10 May. For details contact Dave Cropp or Sally Williams (see p. 28)

Martley Parish Council

Draft abridged record of meeting of Monday 3 March 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on 4. February 2008:

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

District Councillor's report:

Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams reported that MHDC council tax will increase by 4.5%. This is similar to last year and is broken down as follows for the average household in Martley:

Worcestershire County Council £984.77; Fire Brigade £68.21; Police Service £165.45; MHDC £125.40; Martley Parish Council £25.80.

Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams confirmed that the planning application for The Admiral Rodney will be with MHDC planning committee in April. MHDC will conduct a site visit before the committee meeting on the first Wednesday in April. There is £20,000 of funding available from Sport England to encourage children into sporting activities; this is possibly going to be boosted to £50,000. The decision on the planning application for Berrow Green Road has not yet been made. The Clerk is to send a follow up e-mail and Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams is also to contact MHDC.

Standard of Highways workmanship: Martley Parish Council agreed that Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh will represent the Parish Council at local parish meetings concerning the standard of Highways workmanship, led by Wichenford's Clerk. Martley Parish Council supports the idea of local parishes working together to resolve Highways issues and feel that County Councillor Mr. A. Davies should be involved. The Council suggested that meetings take place during the last week of each month to discuss any issues raised in the parish council meetings. Councillor. Mr. R. McHugh to feed back at the next meeting.

Martley Housing Needs Survey: The Clerk confirmed that Cllr.Mr.D.Cropp had sent comments for the meeting but they had not been brought to the meeting. The Clerk reported concerns as remembered, such as: not personal, very general, no reference to the

previous survey. Martley Parish Council agreed that Community First should send the Housing Needs Survey draft version that was circulated at the meeting.

Planning:

Applications received: February 2008: 08/00157/FUL Hollings End, Newtown Loft conversion. 04/03/2008, Time extensions had been sought. 08/00226/FUL Penny Patch, Hillside. Two-storey ext.

Approvals: 07/01633/FUL Proposed replacement of existing dwelling Treetops, Hillside

Correspondence:

Included SWJCS Feedback and next stages. WCC – Children and Young people's Plan Consultation. WCC – Maps

Finance:

There were four cheques totalling £531.61 for agreement and signature. Costings for youth event (26 April) are to be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Cropp is looking into the Discretionary Rural Rate Relief applications, will add to the agenda for the next meeting.

Urgent Decisions since the last meeting:

There was a Special Budget Meeting held on Monday 18 February 2008 where it was agreed that Martley Parish Council's precept for 2008/09 would be £13,500.

Councillors' reports and items for future agendas:

Neighbourhood Watch meeting at Abberley Village Hall 7.30 to 9.30pm 16 April 2008. One of the issues to

discuss is SMART water. Open meeting. Councillors attending will feed back at the following Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk to e-mail WCC asking for a response regarding the footbridge.

Meeting at Heaton House Thursday 13 March 2008 at 9.30am, called by Festival Housing. Councillors attending will feedback at the next meeting.

The Clerk to chase MHDC to obtain a breakdown of materials for the Highways work to Scar Bank.

The Clerk is to chase Highways regarding Horsham Lane, Berrow Green.

Councillor Rothwell to approach Len Hoskins to discuss possibility of storing the five-a-side goals on the side of the clubhouse. Councillor Rothwell also investigate obtaining a hanging bracket and secure straps. Martley Parish Council supports Councillor Rothwell in gaining a secure storage area for the goals.

The Clerk to approach the Parish Paths Warden regarding the rotten step support on a stile at Prickley Green.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 7 April 2008 at 8pm.

Martley's Past

Parish Councils (including Martley) came into being in December 1894. Early in 1895 the question of the provision of allotments was discussed. In July 1895 Lord Dudley's agent, Mr Best, suggested a piece of land called Linacre, occupied by Mr John Holliday. Councillors disapproved,

saying the land was inconveniently situated. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Best and suggest that a piece of land known as Birchall might be suitable.

On 17 October 1895 appeared the following minute: "The Chairman (Col Currie) then produced correspondence on the subject of the Allotments proposed to be hired at Birchall. He explained that there had been some delay in the proceedings of the Allotments Committee owing to the non-receipt of information from Mr J Best, the Earl of Dudley's agent, who had been precluded from taking earlier action by ill-health and the press of other duties. Mr Best, in a letter laid before the Council dated 10 October 1895, mentioned that Birchall consisted of 10 acres 1 rod 15 perches and estimated the rent at 23 shillings (£1.15) per acre, exclusive of rates, compensation to the present tenant, Mr R Threlfell (a councillor!) and the erection of a fence between Birchall and the adjoining piece of land called Poolfields. Calculations made by Members of the Council showed that taking into consideration rates, compensation and fencing the rent of the proposed allotments would amount to at least thirty shillings (£1.50) per acre.

Mr Threlfell pointed out that it was all-important for his interest that a speedy decision should be arrived at, as in case of the land not being required for allotment purposes, it would be necessary to resume his work on it without delay. Mr A

Dowding thereupon undertook to communicate at once with the applicants, and hoped to be able to state their views on the Council at the end of a fortnight."

At a meeting on 31 October 1895, Minute 3 stated, "Mr R Dowding on behalf of the applicants for allotments stated they would not accept the site offered at Birchall, deeming it ineligible on account of the expense to be incurred on account of the fencing and compensation. He intimated that the matter should remain in abeyance until the following year."

I've found no reference that allotments were ever established.

Note: Linacre (13 acres) – on left of Berrow Road on leaving village, on a line drawn between Lower Hollings Farm and Berrow Farm. Rented 1840 by Wm Rogers, by 1895 John Holliday (Court Farm).

Birchall (10.1.15) – On tithe map as Burch Field. Down Kingswood Lane on left just after sharp right-angled bend. Part of Berrow Farm. Rented in 1840 by John Butt, 1895 by J Threlfell.

Alan Boon

***Martley Library
Opening Hours***

Martley Memorial Hall, Berrow Green Rd
Martley, Worcs WR6 6PQ

Mon 2.00-7.00pm

Wed 4.00-6.00pm

Thu 10.00am-1.00pm

Fri 2.00-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-12 noon

Walk for St Richards

***Join St Richard's Hospice on
our 24th annual Malvern Hills
walk on Saturday 17 May.***

*This is one of our biggest annual
fundraising events, with
hundreds of walkers raising
£25,000 in sponsorship last year.
The event is suitable for all the
family with 2, 5, or 11 mile walks.*

*Please call the Fundraising
Department for registration forms
on 01905 763963 or email*

FundraisingAssist@strichards.org.uk

***Walk Wonders @
Wichenford***

Tuesday 20 May 10am

A five mile round walk starting and finishing at The Masons Arms pub. Macmillan Cancer Support have asked us to participate in their UK wide Event in May.

We are a small friendly walking group in Wichenford and invite anyone who enjoys walking in our lovely countryside to join us. NO FUSS. NO SPONSORSHIP. Just turn up and make a contribution. Optional lunch at The Masons and some of us might be walking in the afternoon as well. We would love to see you. Any queries - ring Harriet on 01886-888382



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



May Altar Flowers

4 May Mrs A Banks
11 May Mrs Root
18 May M Fisher
25 May Ladies Fellowship

Wichenford PCC Meeting

The next meeting of the Wichenford PCC is on 5 May at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall.

Wichenford 100 Club

March winners

No 29 Clive Brookes £85
And returned subscriptions to
No.161 Mark Andrews £12.00
No. 162 R Wyatt £12.00
Drawn by G Hancock: M Brookes: J Andrews

Just to prove that the draw is always scrupulously fair, it was decided to draw the numbers publicly at the Wichenford Local Heritage Group meeting on the 19th March. Mrs G Hancock drew the first number - of the husband of the person sitting next to her! So Mrs Brookes was asked to draw the next number; she drew Mr Andrew's, whose mother was sitting at

the back! Invited to draw the final number, not only did Mrs Andrews manage to draw the number of the Group's Treasurer, also sitting in the audience, but, quite unbelievably, it was also the consecutive number!

However many times one might try, it is unlikely to be able to replicate such a pattern of relationships! ... Well.. we'll see in April!

Wichenford Village Fete

The Wichenford Fete will be held on Saturday 26 July. Please begin to look out suitable items to sell, for example books, bric-a-brac, toys and plants. If you can help, please contact Janet Andrews on 01886-888303.

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship will meet on 20 May at 2.30pm. Venue to be arranged.

Organiser Wanted

Lady or gentleman wanted to organise the Wichenford Whist Drives and also volunteers to make the tea and coffee at refreshment time. Whist drives

commence in October on the second Friday in each month through until April. If you can help, please contact John Richards on 01886-888378.

Deborah Louise (Debbie) Baldwin

We are so very sorry to hear that Debbie has died so tragically young. She had been married to Kevin for such a very short time when she died. We send our very deepest sympathy to Kevin; he is so much in our thoughts. There was a lovely service for Debbie at Abberley Church that was packed. Tributes were paid to her great courage and to her lovely sunny nature. We also wish to convey our sympathy to her parents, to all her family and to her many friends. She will be very sadly missed.

Open Garden

Mrs Britten will open her lovely garden at "Keepers Lodge" on Sunday 22 June from 2pm until 6pm. There will be a plant stall and various other stalls, and teas will be available. The profit from the event will be in aid of improvements to the hall and also to St Laurence church.

Beatrice Cora Palmer

Cora, as she was known to everyone, was born at Prickley bungalows, Martley Hillside. She spent all her childhood in the area attending the village school in Martley. In her late teens she enjoyed the popular local dances, where she met and married her

husband of 60 years, Alf Palmer. They married in 1947 and went on to have a family of four sons, Graham, John, Philip and David. Their first home was at Lower Hollins Farm, Martley, before moving to Wichenford where Alf worked in his father's bakery business.

Cora was able to fulfill her love of flowers through her flower arranging ability and by opening a florist shop in St Johns, Worcester. Later this was taken over by her son, Philip. Cora and Alf then went on to make their home at The Bakery, where she helped in the running of the business and made many friends. On their retirement they moved to Withers Road, St Johns, Worcester where she was able to enjoy her garden with the many flowers she so loved. Cora was devoted to her sons, their wives, her nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and will be great missed by them all.

Wichenford Millennium Green

The AGM of the Millennium Green was held on the 2 April.

Trustees are Georgina Britten Long, Heather Rendall, David Woodward, Alistair Webster and Dixon Stinton. Richard Hawkins is Treasurer.

All the Trustees were re-elected en-bloc to serve another two years.

End of year accounts, as at the 31 December 07 were presented, and the bank balance showed £4,566 in credit. Income for the year was £2,800 and expenses £1,800. Running expenses

for the year remain about £1,000 being insurance, inspection and grounds maintenance. This is covered by the annual donation from the 100 Club. Any extra funds for equipment have to come from fund-raisers.

The bench-and-table is getting old and will be replaced this year, as will the junior swings which have now been condemned by the inspector and have been removed at their request. We are awaiting the result of the grant application for two replacement swings. In any event, the swings will be replaced this year. We will buy two new football nets. There will be some extra maintenance this year in that the gates need re-painting and some of the path boards are loose and will have to be replaced. The seats will be re-oiled and moss killer will be put on the paths. A dog-poo bin is being purchased. There have been complaints about dogs fouling the green and the result not being picked up by the owners. Please could you ensure that if your dog fouls the ground, the debris is picked up and removed. The green after all is for play, not poo.

GBL April 2008

Burns Supper 2007—Report

The Burns Supper held at Wichenford Memorial Hall was a sell-out and it was generally considered that “a good time was had by all.” After the traditional Burns Night Supper of cock-a-leekie soup, tatties, neeps and buttered cabbage, followed by tipsy trifle, washed down with coffee, the

guests were entertained with songs and poems of Robert Burns. Some kind person had donated bottles of whisky which helped the general conviviality and enjoyment of the evening. The Bard was toasted—and so were the lassies and laddies!

The committee set out to break even as the event was not a fundraiser but in the event, as a result of sales on the cash bar, a profit was made of £97.50 after all the expenses were paid. A gift of £90 went to the Nora Parsons Day Centre and the remaining £7.50 was given to Wichenford Memorial Hall.

The committee has reviewed the event and have decided to hold a similar event next year. The Burns Supper next year on Friday 23 January 2009.

Revd Bruce Thomson

Baby News

John and Sue Palmer are delighted to announce the birth of their second grandchild, Chloe Mae Palmer, born on 23 December 2007. Chloe is a second daughter for Richard and Angela and a sister for Abigail. Mum, Dad and Steve send love to you all.



Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10 March 2008 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Councillor G Britten Long chaired the

meeting. (Chairman). The chairman welcomed the newly-elected councillor Mr R Latham.

District and County Councillors Report

Cllr Williams had reported that MHDC share of TAX increase is 4.5%. She spoke to the planning officer about the new access at The Masons and said that the highways department have put conditions on their permission. The parish council can employ an independent highways safety officer if they wish. County Cllr Davies reported a 4.3% increase on the council tax which is 6% less than last year.

The Regional Spatial Strategy workshop in Sinton Green was attended by two of our council. The results of the workshops are not yet known and the date has been extended to 30 June.

From April, Concessionary Bus Fares will allow travel all over the country (currently restricted to the district).

The National Audit Commission awarded the County four stars for the third year in a row.

The County Councillor was told about a letter from the clerk to neighbouring parishes regarding the highways. The clerk will inform him when a date has been set for the meeting. She is waiting to hear from all the parishes concerned. The clerk said that her letter to the County Council Directorate of 8 Feb has been passed on four times and still no answers.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14

January 2008 were read, accepted and signed as a true record.

Progress Reports

Festival Housing (Hedge and Fence): Festival reported that a maintenance inspector has visited the site and arranged for the fence to be repaired and asked the tenant to cut back the hedge.

Mini Digger: The chairman has investigated an article advertising free digger hire, but been unsuccessful.

Litter picking: The clerk has contacted Malvern Hills and asked for the Litter Pickers to come to our parish.

Planning

Applications considered since the last meeting: The clerk brought the council's attention to application **08/00244/AGR** for an agricultural barn and storage unit. The clerk was asked to speak to the planning officer to find out what viable agricultural practice is going to be on 40 acres.

08/00008/FUL First floor extension and ground floor lean to utility for Kenswick Manor Lodge. The parish council has no objection to this application. **08/00121/FUL** .Three Bedroom Dwelling at Coalbrook House. Although the parish council appreciates there is a clear need for this dwelling; it is outside the village settlement boundary and contrary to all planning regulations. The plans of the dwelling seem unsuitable for an elderly couple and their requirements. **08/00131/FUL** Provision of additional window in south elevation. Woodbine Cottage. The parish council would like this window to be over 2m from floor

level to allow light but not to overlook the neighboring gardens. **08/00172/ FUL-00173/LBC.** Demolition of modern farm buildings and the conversion of the traditional buildings to 4 residential units at Woodhall Farm. The parish council have no objection in principle to this application but as these buildings will in effect be 'new builds' care should be taken to promote the development of renewable energy; geo-thermal heating; reduction of heat loss by insulation and the re-use and recycling of waste water. The parish council has concerns that the development will generate more traffic using the single track road to join the main B4204 Martley to Worcester Road

Decisions made by MHDC: **07/01688/ FUL.** Proposed garage/carport with studio and storage above for Cob House Farm. Approved. **07/01423/ FUL.** Provision of improved highway access for The Masons, Wichenford. Approved. The Councils letter to C Bocock regarding this decision was discussed. No reply has been received and the council agreed they would like it chased up. Highways have a duty to cut back hedges that are obstructing the visibility onto the carriageway. The parish council thought that if there was a lot of opposition to an application it should go to the planning committee and not be delegated.

Applications to be considered. (Received after agenda sent out): **07/01934/ FUL.** Erection of steel-portal-framed building for storage of

grain; produce; tractors; and agricultural implements for Woodhall Farm. The parish council is unhappy with the siting of the proposed barn. It will be visible from the main road, by the residents of Kenswick Manor and is in view of two of the proposed barn conversions. It is extremely large yet not big enough to cater for the size of the farm. We would also question where the surface water will drain as there is no brook nearby. **08/00278/ FUL.** Outdoor exercise area for horses. At Sledgemoor House. No objections.

Finance

The accounts were discussed and accepted. The balance up to 29 February 08 stands at £15,553.70, including the remainder of the Nora Parsons Day Centre Management Account of £819.94 and £2,336.00 from Awards For All lottery Funding. There were two cheques totaling £1,053.052 for agreement and signature. The Lengthsman has been paid from August-January 08. MHDC election fees came to £93.20.

Masons Arms Rural Rate Relief:

The Parish Council has been asked to consider an application by the Masons for Rural Rate Relief .The Parish Council agreed that the business is of benefit to the local community, and although supportive of the application, have declined to support it financially as the budget for this year has been allocated. We will consider supporting it with a financial contribution in next years rating period.

Nora Parsons Day Centre (For information): The Diocesan Board of

Finance will not claim rent arrears or negotiate the lease for some time. The Diocese has taken over from the Parish Council as landlords. They are getting a second quote for repairs and have applied for a lottery grant. The County Council has approved a small grant.

Regional Spatial Strategy Referred Option. (Report for information): Councillors reported that the meeting at Sinton Green was only a consultation and no answers could be given. The infrastructure is not good enough to support more housing. The consultation period has been extended to June. The CPRE are to petition the government to state how they derived the figure for the amount of houses they say are needed.

Smartwater Security System. (For Information): To be on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Panton will be attending a meeting in April about this and will report back at the next meeting.

Awards for all: The parish council have been successful in obtaining a grant from the lottery-funded Awards For All. We have been awarded £2,336 for notice boards. Wee [www. awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk).

Correspondence

For decision by the parish council: The Malvern Hills District Police and Community Consultative Group Meeting on 26 March. No one can attend. For information only: Included - Children and Young Peoples Plan, Letter and Response regarding Rosses Lane, Local Council Services., Filmscene, WCC Workwise

Scheme, MHDC Application for Rural Rate Relief, Letter to Neighboring parishes regarding Highways.

Councillor's Reports and Items for Future Agendas

Cllr Rendall reported that two dozen apple and plum grafts have been asked for but didn't get any. If the apple grafts take she will pay for the stock and ask for sealed bids, to be awarded to the highest bidder at the village fete.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Next Meeting 28 April 2008. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and an Ordinary Meeting. To start at 7.45/8pm. Meetings were arranged for 16 June; 28 July; 8 September; 20 October and 1 December 2008. All will be in the Memorial Hall Wichenford at 7.30pm.

Mobile Library

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

Malvern View

10am-10.30am

Wichenford church

10.35am-11am

Kings Green Farm

11.05am-11.35am

Rosses Green

11.40am-12.10pm



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664



Revd David Sherwin, Priest in Charge, says "Because we needed to include several important notices this month, I have not written my usual words. Don't worry! All will be back to normal next month!"

Christian Aid Week

11-17 May 2008

I'm sure that most people reading this would agree that poverty is unacceptable. Once again we are given the opportunity by Christian Aid to make a difference to help empower poor people around the world to find their own solutions to the challenges they face. Some of these opportunities are as follows:

10 May Visit the Christian Aid Stand at Martley Fete. 2.00pm-4.00pm

14 May A "Beer and Hat The Admiral Rodney 8.00pm onwards. Come and choose your favourites and enjoy a good sing along!

16 May Enjoy a quiz night at Broadwas Village Hall. 7.30pm

At these three activities you will be able to give to the work of Christian Aid. As we do this, we will be joining communities across the country in this endeavour and together millions will be raised to help rid the world of poverty. For further information please telephone Revd David Sherwin on 01886 888664

Confirmations

I have recently been encouraged by people asking for Confirmation. At the moment there are nine enquiries. If you would like to explore Confirmation for yourself then please let me know. I would be delighted to talk to you further.

New service times

From June 2008 for a trial period, the mid-morning (previously 11.00am) services at St. Peter's Martley and St. Mary Magdalene Broadwas will begin at 10.30am. and St. Laurence Wichenford will standardise their three morning services to 10.30am also. This has been decided after consultation and seems to be a more popular time. It also means there is a common time for the mid-morning service for people to remember within these Churches. The times will be printed and distributed nearer the time. If you have any questions or comments please let me know.



Thu 1 May	Ascension Day 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 7.30pm Holy Communion at St Peter, Martley
Sun 4 May	8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel 9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.00am Worship All-Together, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mon 5 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tue 6 May	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 7 May	10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Thu 8 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 2.00pm Little Minnows - theme: special jobs
Sat 10 May	8.30am Men's Breakfast, at The Talbot 2.00pm Martley Spring Fayre at The Rectory
Sun 11 May	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Christian	10.00am Worship All-Together, St Laurence, Wichenford
Aid Week	11.00 am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 4.00pm Pentecost Celebration Service at St Peter, Martley
Mon 12 May	8.30am Prayer Breakfast at the home of Rev'd Bruce Thomson
Tue 13 May	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 14 May	10.15 Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thu 15 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Sun 18 May	8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 11.00am Morning Worship, St Peter, Martley 3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel 6.00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
Mon 19 May	10.15 Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 7.30pm Martley PCC Meeting at The Rectory
Tue 20 May	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Brian Woodburn 7.30pm Harvest Supper Meeting at The Rectory
Wed 21 May	10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Thur 22 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Fri 23 May	State schools close for half term (return Monday 2 June)
Sun 25 May	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Worship All-Together, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
Mon 26 May	Bank Holiday – no service?
Tue 27 May	10.00 Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Brian Woodburn
Wed 28 May	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thu 29 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 2.00pm Mother's Union at the home of Jenny Barton

Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Michelle Higgins editor@martley.org or 01886 888344 or leave articles at Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Vacancy. Contact 01886 888393
Church	<i>Rector:</i> Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 or david-win56@aol.com <i>Curate:</i> Revd Bruce Thomson—01886 888098 <i>Assistant Priest:</i> Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Parish Council	Chair: Dave Cropp—01886 888398; Clerk: Sally Williams—01299 832949
Martley WI	President: Gwynne Darby—01886 888490
Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
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Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431

To have your organisation and its contact details appear on this list, or to change the details shown here, email editor@martley.org or leave a note for the editor at Martley Post Office.

In the Garden



Keeping busy in May!

May is a busy month. Dead head spring flowering bulbs. If you feed the bulbs now and leave the leaves, you will see the benefits next spring. Prune shrubs that have finished flowering, cutting back the flowering shoots to a bud or shoot low down. Next year's flowers will form on the new growth and the shrub will keep its shape. Prune Clematis montana before it takes over! Treat yourself to some summer bedding plants but take time to harden them off outside before planting them out. Hanging baskets can be planted up and tender 'exotics' such as Canna and Dahlias go out at the end of the month. Clip evergreen hedges, and there is still time to feed and repair lawns before the weather gets too dry[!] In the vegetable plot, earth up potatoes, cut runners off strawberry plants and keep removing side shoots from tomatoes. Sow beans, courgettes and sweetcorn indoors, or outside later in the month if you can keep pests away. Easier still, buy plants at the end of the month, remembering you don't need lots of courgettes.

If you need inspiration try a visit to Malvern Spring Show, 8-11 May (see www.threecounties.co.uk). Definitely the best value for money this month is Martley Spring Plant Sale, 24 May.

JC