

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 18 No. 12

May 2009

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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 and 3rd Wednesday at The Admiral Rodney

**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 the Diary page on [www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk) for a complete listing of all forthcoming events (that the Diary page editor knows about)

See page 28 for contact details of organisations

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

***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](http://www.martley.org.uk)



## ***Martley and District Horticultural Society***

At the March meeting, Chairman Mike Dunnnett opened with some 'topical tips'. He gave advice on pruning in the coming month and showed sprays from three shrubs which he has planted to provide interest in the garden in winter. There was then an opportunity for members to discuss their own plant problems.

The guest speaker was Duncan Straw from Perhill Plants at Great Witley. His theme was 'Plants for awkward areas' and dealt with hot, dry places; dry shade; damp shady spots and wet, cold soils. The talk was illustrated with many slides of herbaceous perennials, alpines and herbs grown at the Perhill nursery, some familiar and many interesting, more unusual, varieties. Duncan described how the plants were adapted to the different growing conditions; the country of

origin is often a clue, but there are also exceptions which flourish in unlikely places. He gave lots of tips on propagating from seed and from cuttings. One essential for success is definitely patience: some seeds can lie dormant for several years before they germinate! Elaine Rice thanked the speaker, on behalf of the members, for a most interesting and informative talk, then there was an opportunity to purchase plants from the Perhill Nursery, at a generous discount.

Saturday 23rd May is the day of our annual Plant Sale, members please note, we need your plants! If you are not a member, we need your money, and there are bargains to be had! We look forward to seeing you all.

Date for your diary – 18 June, members visit to World's End Nursery at Hallow.

*Jane Cropp*

## **The Spring Show**

It was a very cold, windy day, but the stalwarts were up early in their gardens picking some lovely blooms, making the entries of large vases of mixed spring flowers as gorgeous as ever, with camellias and japonica adding to the beautiful array of colours. Daffodils and other 'bulb'

flowers were as usual of high quality, but overall entries were down on last year. In the children's classes, the pictures were colourful and artistic. There were interesting poems and chunky necklaces, and tastefully-dressed hard-boiled eggs. But the 'faces' of the decorated cress containers were really something to write home about! Results:

Class 1 – 3 daffodils or Narcissi, single flowers, mixed or one variety: 1st Derek Newton, 2nd Mike Dunnett, 3rd Rena Davidson.

Class 2 – 1 single Hyacinth: 1st Derek Newton, 2nd Tina Steele, 3rd Judith O'Leary.

Class 3 – 3 Daffodils or Narcissi, double flowers, mixed or one variety: 1st Derek Newton, 2nd Margaret Jackson, 3rd Mike Dunnett.

Class 4 – 3 Miniature Tulips, any species: 1st Dave Cropp, 2nd Pat Finch.

Class 5 – 3 Daffodils or Narcissi, multi-headed, mixed or one variety: 1st Derek Newton, 2nd Pat Finch, 3rd

Judith O'Leary.

Class 6 – 5 stems cultivated primroses: 1st Pam Minchin, 2nd Mike Dunnett, 3rd Margaret Jackson.

Class 7 – 3 Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, single-headed, mixed or one variety: 1st Derek Newton, 2nd Mike Dunnett, 3rd Elaine Rice.

Class 8 – 5 stems polyanthus: 1st Margaret Rushgrove, 2nd Derek Newton, 3rd Margaret Jackson.

Class 9 – 3 Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, multi-headed, mixed or one variety: 1st Mike Dunnett, 2nd Dave Cropp, 3rd Margaret Rushgrove.

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

Class 11 – 3 Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi, double flower, mixed or one variety: 1st Pam Minchin, 2nd Judith O'Leary.

Class 12 – A vase of Hellebores: 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Mike Dunnett, 3rd Margaret Jackson.

Class 13 – Specimen bloom – Daffodil or Narcissus: 1st Pam Minchin, 2nd Derek Newton, 3rd Tina Steele.

Class 14 – a vase of mixed cut Spring flowers, excluding shrubs: 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Margaret Jackson, 3rd Sylvia Jeffries.

Class 15 – An arrangement of Spring flowers and foliage: 1st Margaret Jackson, 2nd Sylvia Jeffries, 3rd Elaine rice.

Class 16 – A vase of flowering shrubs: 1st Margaret Jackson, 2nd Pat Finch, 3rd Mike Dunnett.

Class 17 – An arrangement of 3 Daffodils or Narcissi with foliage:



*Pat Finch's prize-winning Hellebores*



*Derek Newton receives his trophy from Mike Dunnett*

1st Sylvia Jeffries.

Derek Newton won the Trophy with 19 points, and the children's entries totalled a magnificent 137.

Don't forget the Plant Sale on 23 May at the Village Hall. Members please bring any 'spares' of any plant description as this raises funds for the Society.

*Tina Steele*

*See the photos – linked from the Local News page of [martley.org.uk](http://martley.org.uk)*

### ***Martley 100 Club & Memorial Village Hall News***

The March winner with lucky number 2 is Anne Layton, who won £30.00. Congratulations for being the first member to join the Club and been rewarded for her commitment! We still have some numbers left in the 100 Club for new members if you are interested - why not fill in and

return the flyer in this issue of The Villager?

### **Fundraising Quiz Nite**

Come along and test those grey cells – Friday 5 June, starting at 7.30-8.00pm in the Village Hall. Teams of four. £5 per person to include supper. Bar and refreshments available. Teams need to pre-book - tickets available from the Village Store. (kindly organised by Jill and Tim Studer and the Village Hall

Committee)

### **Village Hall Committee News**

The walls have been painted and windows cleaned. We are in the process of getting the wooden floor in the hall cleaned and repolished - which is quite a major operation. The traps have been set for the mice under the stage and newly-decorated toilet facilities are about to be completed - we are in funds and grants are pending so watch this space. Cigarette stub boxes will be fixed outside the hall to try and encourage smokers to stop throwing cigarette ends on the floor around the main doorway.

### ***Martley Ramblers***

**Sunday 10 May**

**Hallow and Broadheath. Meet church car park 2pm.**

This month the Two Paulines will be leading us fairly near to home around

Hallow and Broadheath, areas we often whizz through on the way into Worcester.

In spite of a bad forecast, the weather was dry although rather a cold wind for the March ramble around Perry and Nunnery Woods and parts of Worcester. The views of the Malverns and Severn Valley were eye-watering in several senses and it was a surprise to see the hills covered in snow later. Some relative newcomers to the village may have been disappointed that there do not seem to be local walks on the programme for this year. The chairman is quite happy to arrange informal walks, not at weekends, around village footpaths. Fred dog is always happy for the exercise. Contact the chairman on 01886-888439.

*Kate King*



### ***Martley WI***

**Wednesday 13 May 7.30pm**  
**Heaton House**

This is the resolution meeting when we consider what will be presented at the National AGM. There is only one resolution this year, but very important, as the NFWI is urging the Government to commit more funding to research regarding the worrying disappearance of bees. Bees are so essential to human existence. Do come along to listen, learn and contribute. Graham Clark will also be present to

talk about the “Where Next Association”. We have had talks so far this year about maps, pearls and Overseas Aid. Marion Cumella is presently arranging next year’s programme and is always happy to receive suggestions.

Many thanks to Sheila Craker for making arrangements for the annual dinner at the Admiral Rodney and to the staff there for their service and a lovely meal. Members have also been to Broadwas for the Elgar Group Spring meeting, which was on a Victorian theme. Refreshments were a Victorian tea of delicious sandwiches and cakes, all served by suitably attired Victorian ladies. We shall be hosting the October meeting when the speaker’s subject will be “Corsets”. Please, Madam President, we do not have to squeeze ourselves into whalebone undies, do we?

*Kate King*

### ***New Local Fishing***

What price tranquillity? Whitbourne Angling and Associates can now offer you the opportunity to go fishing in a local club with access to three well-established pools. These small idylls are sited well away from main roads and offer all the convenience of parking and the tranquillity. All three waters have recently been stocked with fish from the Cob House hatchery under the supervision of the Environment Agency.

The largest pool, Willow, is an acre, with two further pools which are at

least half an acre in size with 20 swims between them. Access is strictly by membership at £24 per year for dawn to dusk fishing.

For details phone Ian or Gabrielle on 01886 822075 (evenings only).



### **Introduction to Prambles**

Prambles is a new monthly walking group in the area, which arranges pushchair-friendly walks. The aim is to offer parents and carers a safe and secure environment where they can walk with their babies and young children. These walks are ideal for improving your fitness, as part of a healthier lifestyle, and introduce children to the great outdoors.

Philippa Jaine, a volunteer health walk leader, says, "When I was first at home with a new baby I missed the company of other adults so encouraged friends to come walking with me and my daughter. This new group is an exciting development from those initial walks and I'm really looking forward to meeting lots of other new people."

A different location is chosen each month so there is always something new for you and the children to see. We try to choose a location that offers both baby changing facilities and refreshments for those that want them. All the walks are suitable for pushchairs and will only take about 40 minutes, just turn up in comfortable shoes and enjoy the walk!

The walks are supported by the TVCC and the Worcestershire Walking Network, a partnership funded by Worcestershire County Council Countryside Service, Worcestershire Primary Care Trust, Natural England and the Sports Partnership Herefordshire & Worcestershire.

Walking the Way to Health is the largest national body promoting and setting the standards for led health walks. It aims to help promote walking and encourage more people (all ages, backgrounds and abilities) to get outdoors, get more active and reap the benefits. More details about the health benefits of walking and other walking opportunities are available at [www.whi.org.uk](http://www.whi.org.uk).

If you would like more information about the Teme Valley Prambles please contact Philippa Jaine on 01584 819292 or email [pjaine@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pjaine@tiscali.co.uk). For details about the next Prambles walk or any other Teme Valley initiative please contact Sam Billingham on 01886 8120982, on our website [www.temevalley-cc.org.uk](http://www.temevalley-cc.org.uk) or in our monthly newsletter.

### ***Pudford Lane***

#### **The on-going story of Lane folk**

Things have been quiet recently, from a news point of view, that is. The spring sounds are far from quiet, with sheep and lambs bleating, ravens croaking, cockerels crowing, jackdaws and woodpeckers calling and blackbirds singing. The offspring are growing at an amazing rate and that goes for the human ones as well. It has

been a lovely spring. The old warning “Ne’er cast your clout ‘til May be out” was ignored by most of us during the sunshine and warmth of March days.

Readers may remember rumours of Formula One connections with the new owners of Rodge Hill Farm. As is often the case, the rumours were unfounded, however think “Brands Hatch” instead.

*Kate King*

### ***Martley’s Past***

Jottings from Parish Council Minutes.  
6 October 1924. Mr Howlett brought to the notice of the Council the action of one of their members – Mr W Nott – who saved a child from drowning in the Severn at Worcester a short time ago and proposed that the Council offer him their congratulations on his brave deed. Mr J Lawson seconded. Carried unanimously. Mr Nott briefly thanked members.

17 November 1924. Special Meeting held in Board Room of the Workhouse. The Chairman (Rev J F Hastings) read a letter from the Rural District Council respecting the need of providing more houses for the working classes in the parishes and asking for replies to specific questions on the matter. Mr J Davis explained the principles of the Scheme and discussion followed.

It was agreed to reply that four more houses were necessary; two at the North end of the parish on the Witley Road and two at Berrow Green; that the sites should be a matter for

arrangement; and that the weekly rents should be about two shillings and sixpence for the smaller ones, and three shillings and sixpence for the better ones. (*In modern money, that’s 12½p and 17½p – Editor.*)

*Alan Boon*

### ***Peggy Smith***

The Villager was sorry to learn of the death of Peggy Smith in mid-March. A tribute to Peggy will be published in next month’s issue.

### ***Martley Parish Council***

Abbreviated unapproved record of the general meeting of the held on Monday 2 March 2009 at the Memorial Hall. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **The Democratic Period/Public Question Time**

A parishioner raised the issue of recent thefts of primrose plants from Pudford Lane. The police can take no action unless the theft is reported by the landowner. Any further thefts should be reported to Malvern Hills District Council for their records as the plants are a protected species. A parishioner also raised the need for an established Neighbourhood Watch in Martley. There have been at least seven incidents of crime in Pudford Lane recently. A handout was published some years ago in Martley which listed neighbours contact details, police contacts, etc. Parishioners have asked for a new handout to be designed. The parishioner will find the original

template and pass it to the Clerk for work to start on a new handout.

Chairman opened the meeting at 20:09pm.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 February 2009:**

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record, subject to addition of request to add Freedom of Martley Board to the agenda at the next meeting.

### **Progress reports:**

The Clerk and councillors confirmed that work to widen the railings in order to allow farm machinery to use the bridge at Barbers Lane was complete. The Clerk is to write to WCC giving clear markings on a map as to where the Parish Council would like to display the Smart Water signs.

The Clerk confirmed a response has been received from Lee Robson at Malvern Hills District Council in relation to future housing needs in Martley. Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp is to take this matter up with Lee Robson as it was felt his response did not answer the concerns of the Parish Council. Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp will then report back to the Parish Council. Councillors confirmed that the fly tipping at Ham Bridge has been removed. Duncan Rudge from MHDC has confirmed that a lot of nominations were received for the Development Quality Tour and therefore Martley's suggestions may or may not be chosen. WCC are investigating the running water at Prickley Green. The Clerk confirmed that John Wallace would be happy to

return to Martley for a meeting with Councillors to look at some of the highways in Martley – date to be arranged. The Clerk also confirmed that Vicky Bilton and Peter Newman will meet Councillors to look at potential development sites – date to be arranged. The Clerk has posted on both notice boards in the village notices for the Councillor vacancy resulting from Cllr. Mr. N. Hall's unfortunate resignation. Further notices will be displayed in the shop and the Post Office. The Clerk arranged for Councillors to complete a new signatory form for the Bank of Ireland deposit account. The Clerk read out the update from the Lengthsman. As at 12pm on Sunday 1 March 2009 an invoice had not been received from the Lengthsman. The Clerk is to write to Sergeant Kent naming the companies to whom the lorries speeding on Hillside belong. The Clerk confirmed that WCC have agreed to pay for the work undertaken at 24 Hollins Lane - date for completion of the works to be obtained. The Clerk confirmed that notice of the Gt. Witley road closure was given to Martley Parish Council in November 2008. The Clerk is to put the internal audit on the agenda for the next meeting. The Clerk is to chase WCC regarding the change of use request submitted for the lay-by at Hillside, Martley. Pre-School: It was noted that no representation had been made by the Pre-School following the request from Martley Parish Council for the Pre-School to submit a current



business plan and report on findings following the building inspection. Landowners support – Ditch clearance: Cllr. Mr. T. Gale to pursue. The Clerk to ask the Lengthsman to look at Upper Hollins Lane and the grips at Prickley Green. The Clerk is to report the blocked drain on the lay-by at Hillside to WCC along with concerns over pot holes at (New House Farm) Hope House Lane, Hollins Lane and Hockeridge Lane.

**District and County Councillor's report:**

District Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams reported that: Sport Martley was making a profit. It had received 35,000 visitors over the last 9 months, with a 100% satisfaction. As Chair to Sport Martley, she felt that £18.00 per month membership was good value. Sport Martley is run under the guidance of Wychavon Council and Cllr. Mrs. E. Rothwell represents Martley Parish Council on the Sport Martley committee. The 2009/10 budget has been approved with a 2.95% increase. MHDC has kept the increase low to support local residents. The SWJCS is undergoing a further consultation stage. MHDC have embarked on a Warmer Worcestershire Partnership Scheme which will involve a thermal imaging aircraft flying over the properties of Worcestershire to identify those losing the most heat. Grants will then be offered to assist these home owners to reduce heat loss.

County Cllr. Mr. A. Davies reported that: WCC budget had been approved

at 2.94%. WCC have also put aside monies to be spent on improving footways in Worcestershire and to alleviate flood risks. The schools budget has been increased from that of last year. The 2009 County Council elections have been postponed from the 7 May until the 4 June 2009, the same date as the European elections, which will mean a joint election. The presentation on the funding for improving health had gone well. The PCT has given Worcestershire County Council £500,000 to be split amongst the 57 wards, totalling £8111.00 each over two years. Councillors are encouraged to pass their ideas to County Cllr Davies. A questionnaire on the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy is to be distributed mid April.

**Planning:**

New 09/00227/FUL Scar Cottage, Martley – Replacement garage, store and workshop. Pending 08/01169/FUL Treetops, Hillside – Replacement of dwelling. 09/00021/FUL Pennypatch, Hillside – Single storey extension. 09/00020/FUL Old House Farm, Horsham – Renovation of existing outbuildings. 09/00077/FUL Longside, Hipplecote – Amendment to 08/01498/FUL replacement dwelling. 09/00138/FUL & 09/00139/LBC New House Farm, Hope House Lane – Proposed garage. 09/00258/AGR The Old Barn, Hillside – Erection of agricultural store. Withdrawn 08/01995/FUL The Old Smithy, Hillside – Storage building within residential cartilage.

**Risk Assessment:**

The draft Risk Assessment was adopted. The Clerk to e-mail the Chairman with concerns Councillors raised over the risks associated with the work of the Path-or-Nones.

#### **Finance:**

Three cheques totalling £620.64 were approved. The Parish Council considered that it may be better to purchase an item on behalf of Nora Parsons Day Centre as opposed to making a cash donation. A representative from the Day Centre will be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to present their business plan. A representative from Citizens Advice Bureau will be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to make a presentation on their work. The Parish Council proposed a donation of at least £50.00 to the following: Citizens Advice Bureau; Air Ambulance; MacMillan Nurses; Acorns Hospice; St. Richards Hospice. The donations to be discussed at the next meeting. Grants: in the past Martley Parish Council has made grants to local organisations, but the Council agreed that in future any request for grants should be accompanied by a business plan. Councillors suggested grants could be given to: the launch of "Walkers are Welcome"; the newly-established luncheon club at Broadwas Village Hall or the Village show. YIMMS will be discussed the next meeting.

#### **Councillors' reports and items for future meetings:**

The Clerk is to write to The Crown with regard to the bottle banks on the

car park not being kept tidy and the constant noise being generated.

Cllr. Mrs. E. Rothwell has resigned from the Sport Martley committee as the meetings are held at a time she is unable to attend. Council Representation at Sport Martley to be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6 April 2009.

#### ***Mobile Library***

##### **Ockeridge**

Silver Oaks 9.45–10.05

##### **Wichenford**

Malvern View 10.10–10.35

Church 10.45–11.05

Kings Green Farm 11.15–11.40

Rosses Green 11.45–12.05

##### **Martley Hillside**

Horn Lane Bungalows 12.10–12.25

##### **Martley**

Taylor's of Martley 12.30–12.45

##### **LUNCH**

Heaton House 1.20–1.50

Church. 1.55–2.15

##### **Clifton**

Village Hall 2.30–3.50

The Mobile Library will be visiting these stops on Wednesdays on the dates listed below:

22 April 2009                      28 October 2009

13 May 2009                        18 Nov 2009

3 June 2009                        9 Dec 2009

24 June 2009                      30 Dec 2009

7 Oct 2009

Any enquiries should be made to Stourport Library, Worcester Street, Stourport, Worcs DY13 8EH  
tel: 01299-822866

stourportmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk



# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

**WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS**

**Janet Andrews**  
**01886 888303**  
**Sheila Richards**  
**01886 888378**



## ***Church Flowers***

3 May Mrs A Banks  
10 May Mrs Jo Root  
17 May No Service – Rogation Day  
24 May Ladies Fellowship  
31 May No Service – Benefice  
Service, Martley

## ***Wichenford PCC***

The next meeting of the PCC is on  
Monday 11 May at 7.45pm in the  
Memorial Hall.

## ***Children's Society***

The Children's Society Boxes are due  
in for emptying this month.

## ***Spring has Sprung!***

On 14 March, seen in a garden pool in  
Poplar Road, were upwards of 50  
chirping, spawning toads. At the same  
time bumblebees were in abundance  
on the Spring flowers. Then came the  
cry of a curlew as it flew above, and  
over the fence a  
white butterfly  
appeared. Welcome  
to Spring 2009!



## ***Julie Dawn Neath***

We are so very sorry that Julie has  
died and send our heartfelt sympathy  
to her parents, Denis and Jean Hiams,  
to all her family and to John. The huge  
congregation at her funeral was a  
tribute to her and the affection and  
regard in which she was held.

## ***Wichenford Open Gardens***

The gardens will be open on 27 and 28  
June 2009. Lunches and teas will be  
available. Don't miss the opportunity  
to see the lovely and very varied  
gardens in Wichenford.

## ***Worth a Visit***

The Suffolk (Punch) Horse museum at  
Woodbridge (mentioned as the Shire  
Horse museum on page 23 of the April  
issue of The Villager) is well worth a  
visit, if you are in the area.

## ***Wichenford 100 Club***

March winners: £75.00 no 73 Mr  
Neath. And returned £12.00  
subscriptions to no. 6 B Dursley and  
no. 159 M Satchell. Drawn by Polly  
Rendall

## ***Wichenford Millennium Green***

### **AGM 25 March 2009**

Present: Georgina Britten Long, Alistair Webster, David Woodward, Dixon Stinton. Apologies: Richard Hawkins, Heather Rendall

Minutes of the previous meeting in April 08 were agreed and signed as correct.

Matters arising from the Minutes: Key holder tel number incorrect – GBL to fix.

Trustees: GBL, HR, AW, DS, DW were all re-elected for a further term until 2010. DW as Secretary and RH as Treasurer also re-elected,

Charity Commission Annual Form (DW) Done this year, due October 09.

Accounts: Accounts for the year ended 31 December 08 prepared by RH were produced. Balance in the bank showed £2,355. Income for the year was £1,318 and expenses £3,529. Running expenses for the year remain at about £1,200 being insurance (370), RoSPA inspection (80), and grounds maintenance (700). The AGM closed.

### **Millennium Green Meeting 25 March 2009**

Present and Apologies as AGM.

Minutes of the meeting in 30 September 08 were agreed and signed, Matters arising from the minutes are discussed below.

Green Maintenance: Martin O'Toole started in January 09 for £700 pa. He takes away the grass cuttings. Retaining board on climbing frame to be replaced by Martin O'Toole. Bark: Alistair Webster will obtain 3 x ton

bags of bark for swings. Borders and paving to be brushed and tidied. Martin may do this. GBL contacted Worcester branch of Community Payback and has organised a group of those on community orders to paint the seats and benches, scrub down and repaint the gate, scrub and paint the goal posts with white Hammerite, continue painting the fence unless Martin has done it, clean the garden part and paving if Martin hasn't done it, apply wood-preserver to the climbing frame and swing posts. All this should be done in the fullness of time over the next few months once the whole of Worcester has been painted and scrubbed. No sex offenders or those guilty of serious crimes will be present, and two monitors will be present at all times: most of these people are guilty of road traffic and similar offences and deemed no threat to the public. No money to be paid, but materials will be bought when needed. (GBL)

Rota: Rota has changed a bit. Book to be returned to DW after every month so that anything requiring attention can be dealt with. GBL to ask Bill Hylan if he wishes to continue.

Equipment: AW will organise two new nets and pegs (approx £80)

100 Club: A cheque for over £1,000 was paid in from the 100 Club in February

Funding: Some should come from the Bluebell Ride and Open Gardens (June 27/28). GBL spoke to Alan and Colin re taking two stalls at the Open Gardens, for games etc. They will get

back to Alistair with more ideas. GBL suggested buried treasure on table top sandpit (GBL has numbered blocks to bury) and also model of Wichenford Court to guess for ghosts. GBL to produce some prizes for children.

Finance: GBL to reclaim £98 for Poo Bin and £13 for Key holder sign. GBL paid £5 cash for Memorial Hall rent on the 25.3

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4 June at 7.30 at the Masons Arms.

### ***Best of British Blues Comes to our Doorstep***

**Blues at the Fold, Bransford,  
Saturday 4 July 2009**

The line-up for a new community blues festival at The Fold, Bransford has been announced.

Blues at the Fold, which has moved from last year's successful event at Wichenford, brings nationally-acclaimed musicians to your doorstep and provides a whole day of fine music, including The Big Blues Tribe, Trafficker featuring leading UK guitarist Tommy Allen, Alma Latina, Chris Gibbons, Mumbo-Jumbo and more.

With live music from 2-11pm, Blues at the Fold will be an opportunity to relax in the wonderful setting of The Fold, midway between Worcester and Malvern, enjoy its ecoCafe food and excellent local food, beer, cider and perry stalls and listen to some of the best blues music around.

The tickets for the whole day are only £10 for adults and £3 for children under 12 and are limited. Camping

spaces are also available. Tickets and all the information are available from the website. [www.bluesatthefold.co.uk](http://www.bluesatthefold.co.uk) or by calling 01886-812888

### ***Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council***

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2 March 2009 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford. Cllr Britten-Long (Chairman).

#### **District and County Councillors Report**

County Cllr Davies reported that the CC have beaten Malvern Hills on budget at 2.94%, which is 1.5% less than last year. The budget has been set at £5 million with £3 million going on the maintenance of footpaths/pavements and £2 million going on flooding litigation. 8-900 areas need work on flooding and so far 150 have been done. Only six people attended the health improvement plan meeting. One of the options discussed was to buy a one-acre plot for an allotment. The CC has been given £500,000 which is to be divided between 57 parishes to spend over the next two years, which must go towards promoting healthy lifestyles. Three extra teams have been employed to try and repair the increasing number of pot holes. Cllr Davies had seen a copy of the letters regarding Rosses and Guises Lanes and although the CC is not going to appeal they are going to go for a permanent TRO on the un-surfaced areas only. The current TRO

will be extended until August. District Cllr Williams reported that the budget for 2009/10 has been approved by the council. It is a low increase of 2.95%. SWJCS public consultation held last year and further consultations have taken place, seeking additional information from residents regarding shops, flooding, transport, drainage etc. The Warmer Worcestershire scheme involves a thermal imaging plane flying over the county taking thermal images of businesses and residential properties. Residents will be able to see if their property is heat-efficient and will be able to establish what grants are available.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2009 were accepted and signed.

### **Progress Reports**

Mistletoe Lakes. Malvern Hills DC is keeping an eye on this site and Cllr Williams agreed to chase it up. The parish council have been monitoring the cars parked on the verge at Abingdons and it is not causing a problem at the moment.

### **Planning**

Applications considered since the last meeting. 08/01870/Ful. Buryend Town Farm. The parish council has no objection to this proposal. 09/00044/FUL. Single storey side extension for The Tallett, Wichenford. The parish council agree in principle to this proposal but would like the north facing window removed. 09/00131/Ful – 00114/LBC. Proposed garage conversion at Bramley Barn,

Wichenford. The parish council has no objections to this proposal. Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn. 08/01631/Ful. Cob House Fisheries. Proposed construction of a new detached building to provide facilities for anglers and archers. (Approved) 09/00005/Ful. Kenswick Manor Lodge. Erection of detached garage with log and bin store. (Approved) 08/01870/Ful. Buryend town Farm. Replace condition 6 of planning permission with standard agricultural occupation condition. (Approved). 08/02021/Ful. Arundel Farm rear extension. (Withdrawn) The appeal to remove a hedgerow at Woodhall farm has been dismissed. Applications to be considered. 08/01799/Ful. (Amended plans) Proposed extension to public house to form a new function suite. The parish council have previously discussed this application at great length and will reiterate its earlier comments. 09/00251/Ful. Proposed construction of a building to provide angling facilities with ancillary car park, and a new building for archery training. This proposal is exactly the same as the previous application apart from the car park and windows. The parish council would reiterate its previous comments.

### **Finance**

The current balance from 1 January to 30 January stands at £15,075.10. Of this £324 belongs to the Pathfinders Scheme; £1,247 is held on account for the NPDC.

Two cheques totalling £1098.70 were agreed. It was resolved that the clerk

could purchase a new printer; scanner and copier. The clerk will sort out some details and report back to the council.

#### **Rosses Lane & Guises Lane**

This has already been discussed with the County Cllr. The chairman has contacted the Worcestershire Hunt to ask if they would not go down Guises Lane on their quads in future.

#### **Nora Parsons Day Centre**

The chairman has received a letter from the Day Centre. In September it was expected to spend £7,000 on the roof repairs but it is now £18,000. Most of the repairs are being done. The chairman has been in contact with the probationers who will send out people to decorate it for free.

#### **Councillor's Reports and Items for Future Agendas**

Cllr Panton attended the meeting at Broadheath about Healthy Lifestyles and had nothing further to add to the County Councillors comments. The clerk showed the council the summary for the APM and asked if they would like anything to be added.

#### **Date and Venue of Next Meetings**

Next meeting will be 20 April 2009. This will be the APM and an ordinary meeting to start at 7.45pm.

Meetings were arranged for 18 May (Annual Meeting) 29 June, 17 August and 28 September 2009. All will be in the Memorial Hall Wichenford at 7.30pm.

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### ***Hold on to Your Oil!***

With the spells of freezing winter weather earlier this year, many of you with oil-fired central heating will be thinking about topping up your rapidly-emptying oil tanks. But be careful; some of you may have an environmental time-bomb sitting next to your house – your oil tank (and associated pipe work).

This winter the Environment Agency has received many reports of oil spills from domestic heating oil tanks in the county's villages. Typical causes include rusted tanks, damaged underground pipe work, thefts, faulty valves and over-filling of the tank at delivery.

Oil spillages of only a few tens of litres can be a nightmare to clear up. The oil can kill trees and seep into cellars and nearby wells, boreholes and drains. Martley sits in an area of water-bearing sandstone and limestone rocks that stretches from the Forest of Dean up to Abberley, so nearby wells and boreholes are particularly vulnerable. If oil gets into a drinking water borehole or well, it can ruin it for years. If it gets into the drains it might pollute watercourses; harming livestock, wildlife and plants.

With clean-up costs sometimes running into tens of thousands of pounds it is important that you check your insurers will cover both your costs and any third-party claims and that your tanks and pipe work are built and maintained to a high standard. It's

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# In the Garden



## *In the garden in May*

May is one of the busiest and most enjoyable months in the gardening year. The weather is usually much warmer, but some very cold nights are still a possibility and tender plants will need protection. So, while this is a good time to buy summer bedding plants, you should probably wait until the end of the month before putting them out. This also applies to tomatoes.

Continue to dead-head spring-flowering bulbs and feed them to build them up for next year. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and primulas and remove forget-me-nots and other early-flowering bedding plants that are past their best. Spreading plants such as alyssum and aubretia can look a bit tatty by now, so trim them back to encourage new growth.

Prune shrubs that have recently finished flowering: this produces new shoots which will carry next year's flowers. Clematis montana varieties are very vigorous



and they should also be cut back now. Clip evergreen hedges and remove any reverted green shoots from variegated evergreens - do check for nesting birds before you clip. Tie-in climbing and rambler roses as near to horizontal as possible which will give more side shoots and so more flowers. Lawns now need mowing regularly; the clippings can be added to your compost heap, but only in thin layers - too much at once will produce a smelly slime.

In the greenhouse, keep removing side-shoots from tomatoes. French beans, runner beans, courgettes and sweetcorn can all be sown indoors at the start of the month, ready for planting out in late May or early June. If you prefer to sow them outdoors directly, keep an eye open for slug or other pest damage to the young shoots. Cut off runners from strawberry plants, unless you want to grow new plants, and pull off raspberry suckers appearing outside the rows; very vigorous plants may also need a few

canes removed to improve fruiting.

Pest of the month. Keep an eye open for early aphid-greenfly and blackfly-attacks. Squash them or blast them off with water. Very few pesticides are approved for use on edible crops so check the labels very carefully before you use them.



For inspiration this month, visit Malvern Spring Gardening Show 7-10 May. **For great plants at bargain prices, visit Martley Plant Sale on 23 May.**

JC

### ***For Peat's Sake!***

The gardening season is in full swing, and garden centres nationwide will be will be doing a roaring trade in bagged compost. Most of this compost will be peat-based.

The UK has lost 94% of its raised peat bogs in the last 100 years-most of the peat has been extracted for use in horticulture. Peat bogs are unique natural habitats for rare and interesting species of plants, insects, birds and animals. 3000 insect species, 800 flowering plant species, hundreds of mosses, lichens and fungi have been recorded in Yorkshire peat bogs alone! And they are under threat of extinction unless we gardeners stop using peat-based compost.

Peat bogs also lock up atmospheric carbon. The carbon is released when peat bogs are drained. Carbon dioxide is known to be a greenhouse gas, contributing to global warming. It has also been proved scientifically that alternatives to peat, such as wood fibre, can actually produce better results than peat, in growing trials.

So, what can YOU do? Try making your own potting mix using garden compost mixed with loam, sharp sand or grit, chipped bark, leafmould or coir. Sieved compost mixed with fine

leafmould is great for seedlings. Experiment! If you have a wormery, use worm compost for hungry plants and crops, but sparingly as it is very rich. It also has high water retaining properties-great for container gardens. You can also search out peat-free alternatives in your local garden centre, from regular bags to gro-bags. So, go on, save a bit of our precious earth, and make 2009 a peat free year! It's not as hard as it sounds!

AH

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a good idea to keep a close eye on your oil usage. Unusually high consumption could indicate a leak. Also, a bad case of land-contamination from a leaking oil tank could also severely affect the value of your property.

You can protect both your bank balance and the environment by making sure your oil installation is up-to-the-mark. You can ask about best practice for oil storage on the Environment Agency's advice line on 08708 506506 or visit their website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) and search for 'ppg' - Guidance note 2 gives details of best practice. If you do have a spill, please let the Environment Agency know as soon as possible on their incident hotline - 0800 807060.

*Michael Morris – Environment Officer  
The Environment Agency  
Kidderminster*



# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

**T**his month we celebrate Rogation, Christian Aid Week and Ascension. Rogation was traditionally a time when people asked for God's blessing on their land and work, so now we meet on a local farm to ask for blessings on the farm and on the wider farming community, upon whom we rely for our food.. George Herbert (1593-1633), a poet and country parson, called this tradition Procession. His description of it was: "First, a blessing of God for the fruits of the field. Second, justice in the preservation of the bounds. Third, charity in loving walking and neighbourly accompanying of one another, with reconciling differences at that time, if there be any. Fourth, mercy in relieving the poor by liberal distribution of alms". The principles that lay behind Herbert's thought are still relevant today. Perhaps he had Rogation in mind when he wrote this hymn:

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
my God and King!

The heavens are not too high, His  
praise may thither fly,

The earth is not too low, His praises  
there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
my God and King!

As I write this, the G20 Summit is being held; themes of the distribution

of the world's resources, justice, peace and reconciliation and help for the poor and needy are all on the agenda, of both politician and protester. These themes are also those of a Christian organisation called the Micah Challenge, which asks us to seek those things for the world today to seek the blessing of God pray, for peace and justice, live in harmony and show mercy. Micah Challenge is part of an international movement of churches and Christian agencies uniting to hold their governments to account for the promises they made towards the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. They use the theme of the Old Testament prophet Micah as their rallying call: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8. At this time of Rogation and Christian Aid Week it is good for us to seek those ideals and pray for them to become a reality. As we do this, may we see the Ascension in a new reality as we ourselves rise to the challenges before us. God Bless.

*Rev David Sherwin*

## ***Happy Birthday, LinC!***



LinC – Lunch in Company – celebrates its First Birthday on 7 May.

Over the past year we have served some delicious meals to our guests – roast beef, boiled gammon with parsley sauce, chicken casserole, beef and dumplings and roast pork. All served with the usual trimmings and vegetables and followed by some lovely home-made puddings! All for £4. No one goes home hungry.

If you usually eat on your own and would like to share our celebrations – yes, we'll even have a cake! – do please come and join us at Broadwas Village Hall between 12 and 2pm, (we eat at 12.30) on that day.



If you want more details or have a problem with transport, please ring Jennifer on 01886 833897 and we'll do our best to help. We look forward to welcoming you.

*Jennifer*

### **Abbreviated list of services for May**

- SUNDAY 3 MAY      8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel  
                         10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford  
                         10.30am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley  
                         10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas  
                         6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
- SUNDAY 10 MAY      8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge  
                         10.30am Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford  
                         10.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley  
                         10.30am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- SUNDAY 17 MAY – Rogation Sunday  
                         10.30am Benefice Service
- Thursday 21 May – Ascension Day  
                         9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford  
                         7.30pm Holy Communion
- SUNDAY 24 MAY      8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas  
                         9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley  
                         10.30am Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas  
                         10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford  
                         6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
- SUNDAY 31 MAY - Pentecost  
                         10.30am Benefice Service



# Village Contacts



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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.

## ***And finally ...***

### **In Case of Emergency (ICE)**

Message from the Ambulance Service: Many of us carry mobile phones with names and numbers stored in their memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are many numbers stored, but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign. The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. All you need to do is store the number of someone who should be contacted in an emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency). The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but emergency workers didn't know which number to call. Emergency Service personnel or hospital staff would be able to contact the right person quickly by simply calling the number you have stored as 'ICE'. Hopefully, your ICE number will never be needed, but better safe than sorry!.

*Q. What's pink and fluffy?*

*A. Pink fluff.*

*Q. What's blue and fluffy?*

*A. Pink fluff holding its breath.*