

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 19 No. 12

May 2010

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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

**Martley & Villages Carers' Group:** 1st

Monday in the month 10.30-12.30 Heaton House.

### Tuesdays

**Short Mat Bowling:** 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

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

**Martley Toddler Group:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (term time) 10.30am 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 p. 27 for details of services

See articles 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*

Cover photo—an entry for the Hort. Soc. Spring Show. Photo by J. Cropp

*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)



## ***Village Hall News***

### **AGM**

A note of thanks to everyone who took time out to attend the AGM on 24 March when we discussed the way forward, grants, new heating system and the structure of the management committee. Various group representatives attended the AGM for drinks and nibbles and it was agreed that using email connection, lines of communication will be kept open and everyone thus kept well informed. Feedback and suggestions are always welcome: [villagehall@martley.org](mailto:villagehall@martley.org)

I am glad to say that Revd. Robert Barlow was re-elected as Chairman together with David Cropp as Treasurer and me as Secretary. Other committee members are Ann Amos, Pat Hodgson, Lynn Wheeler and Tony Lewington.

### **Ascot/My Fair Lady Themed Race Night**

The date has been changed to Saturday 5 June as the following Saturday England will be playing football. See the flyer in the May issue of The Villager for full details of this event. We hope to get everyone into

the spirit of racing by showing a few clips of the Ascot Races scenes from the film “My Fair Lady” and we want to award some prizes for some fun categories like the outfit most like Audrey Hepburn’s, biggest hat, behaviour most like Professor Higgins’ and maybe even the most dropped aitches of the evening!

### **Martley 100 Club**

March winner is Mrs Sally Swift with one of her new numbers for this year (number 54) and she has won £40. Sally Swift joined the 100 Club last year by receiving a gift number (25) from Mrs E Wetherall and has continued to support the Club and purchased extra numbers. Many thanks to you both.

*Annette Smith, Secretary*

## ***Pudford Lane***

### **The continuing saga of Lane folk**

Spring is here, spring is here, heralded by the bleating of lambs and the splosh of ‘trained’ feet and heavy breathing by unfit inhabitants labouring up the lane.

This year we have been adopted by crows, not the ubiquitous rooks flying around in groups. The crows have

been collecting twigs etc for nest-making, often picking up long lengths of dead vegetation and having to give up with longer bits as too unwieldy. Some of our fruit trees look rather strange with lengths of dead meadowsweet and willow herb hanging down like a fringe. Having planned the lambing time to be later this year when nights should be warmer, our neighbour was surprised to find a few lambs arriving about a month early. Another farmer's ram had managed to get out and made an assignation to do naughties with friendly ewes behind the tractor sheds. Oh well, "the best laid plans of mice and man gang aft aglay" as the poet R. Burns Esq. so aptly put it!

*Kate King*



## ***Martley & District Horticultural Society***

### **Activities report**

On 19 March a group of members visited the private garden at Ashwood Nurseries near Kidderminster, and enjoyed looking round this beautifully laid out and inspiring place. Quite a few early flowering species to be seen – even after this hard winter. Then, on the 24th, a Martley team (and supporters) went to the Gardening Quiz held at Clows Top –

and won!

Mike Dunnett welcomed another new member at our 25 March meeting. This time 'the mysterious black bag' contained flowering currant 'white Icicle', also a lovely scented Daphne from the Himalayas – best planted by a path, sheltered position – and don't disturb the roots. Mike knows of a Malvern supplier where these are low priced.

Jane Cropp's topical tips: catch aphids early as they get going in April, squash or wash!! Use a squeeze bottle and a little detergent, but mind you don't kill any do-gooders eg. lacewings; these like dill, coriander, herb fennel and marigolds. Pam Minchin had recently visited Nellie Bradley in hospital. We are looking forward to her return to Martley when fit enough.

Our main speaker was Hilary Twigg (her second visit). This time her talk was 'Seasonal Interest'. She is a lecturer at Pershore College and she brought a selection of interesting shrub twigs and plants, providing everyone with a list of the Latin names of these. She then spoke on each one in chronological order, advising on cultivation, propagation and describing their habits, also how growth in general has been affected and delayed by this hard winter. After questions she judged the members' hyacinth competition and this was won by Tina Steele.

The Spring Show on 27 March was as always a happy occasion. The children's Easter Gardens were

beautifully landscaped, the decorated hats fit for Ascot, Easter eggs very colourful, poems brilliant, and (oh dear) the twenty-four very healthy-looking rabbits all set for a population explosion. The flower and bulb classes were surprisingly good, six extra classes were added owing to the late Spring, and these were well supported. There were even snowdrops entered! The Plant Sale is earlier this year - 22 May.

### **Spring Show 2010 - Results**

The following were the results of the Spring Show on 27 March:

*Class 1* – 1st Mike Dunnett, 2nd Judith O’Leary, 3rd Tina Steele

*Class 2* – 1st Tine Steele, 2nd David Cropp, 3rd Mike Dunnett

*Class 3* – 1st Margaret Jackson, 2nd Carol Dunnett, 3rd Pat Finch

*Class 4* – 1st Barbara Kirby, 2nd Sue Curran, 3rd Patricia Turner

*Class 5* – No entries

*Class 6* – 1st Margaret Rushgrove, 2nd David Cropp

*Class 7* – 1st Pam Minchin, 2nd Barbara Kirby, 3rd Pauline Ellis

*Class 8* – 1st Caroline Dunn

*Class 9* – 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Judith O’Leary

*Class 10* – 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Brian Finch, 3rd Judith O’Leary

*Class 11* – 1st Judith O’Leary, 2nd Pam Minchin

*Class 12* – 1st Margaret Jackson

*Class 14* – 1st Margaret Jackson, 2nd Pam Minchin

*Class 15* – 1st Sue Curran, 2nd David Cropp, 3rd Patricia Turner

*Class 16* – 1st Margaret Jackson, 2nd Pam Minchin, 3rd Patricia Turner

*Class 17* – 1st Margaret Jackson, 2nd Pam Minchin, 3rd Patricia Turner

Additional Show Classes in Section 1:

*3 Helleborus floating in a container* – 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Carol Dunnet, 3rd Judith O’Leary



*Hellebores at the show*

*6 Viola mixed or one variety* – 1st Margaret Rushgrove, 2nd Caroline Dunn, 3rd Barbara Kirby

*Vase of mixed evergreen foliage* – 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Carol Dunnett, 3rd Caroline Dunn

*A camellia flower* – 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Brian Finch, 3rd David Cropp

*Vase of mixed flowering shrubs* – 1st Pat Finch, 2nd Caroline Dunn, 3rd Carol Dunnett

*6 Snowdrops* – 1st Carol Dunnett, 2nd Judith

O'Leary

The trophy for Section 1 was Pat Finch and for Section 2 Margaret Jackson.

Winners of the Children's Classes were as follows:

*Holly Class* – 1st Olivia Burston, 2nd Hannah Williams, 3rd Finley Sabbato

*Maple Class* – 1st Liam Arnold, 2nd Harvey Bowen, equal 3rd Jemma Corbett and James Everiss

*Willow Class* – 1st Page Hyland, 2nd Luke Robson, 3rd Mia Lumslen

*Rowan Class* – 1st Chloe Mellish, 2nd Katie Johnson equal 3rd Jake Adams and Ryan Hall

*Oak Class* – 1st David Prince, 2nd Lauren Hughes, 3rd Olivia Mason

*Tina Steele*



## ***Martley WI***

### **Wednesday 12 May 7.30pm Heaton House**

As there is only one resolution for the AGM this year, regarding correct/incorrect labelling of food, we are also having a speaker: Janet Clemas will be telling us how to detox our homes. The competition is for a plate of home-made biscuits. Don't expect to have any leftovers to take home. We are still debating where to go for our summer outing, so if there is a strong desire to go somewhere special, let the committee know.

Three of us went to Denman College on the Federation Weekend and had a

lovely time. There was a variety of different courses and it was nice to meet up at mealtimes to exchange views and chat with members of other institutes. As one expects with a WI College, everything ran like clockwork, meals were on time and no preparation or washing up to do, and superb accommodation. Thank you to the two Julias who were always available in case of problems and last, but not least, to Annette who did the driving there and back.

*Kate King*

## ***Martley Ramblers***

### **Sunday 9 May 2pm church car park**

This month we are walking around Clifton and Shelsleys areas. Weather permitting, there should be some wonderful views. The restored Shelsleys Watermill, alongside the Hillclimb, will be open to the public that weekend, so we may be able to stop off for a short time and have a look around. Thanks to staff at The Crown for providing us with a good evening and delicious food for the annual dinner and thanks to Pam Bowers for making all the arrangements.

*Kate King*

## ***Swap Shop at Hallow***

Hallow WI Eco Group are holding a Swap Shop at Hallow Village Hall on Saturday 22 May 2010. We are doing this in conjunction with Hallow Village Community Group as an attempt to reduce items going to landfill.

We will run from 10.00am until 12 noon. From 10.00 - 11.00am it will be swaps only on a 1 for 1 basis. From 11.00 until mid-day items will also be for sale. There will be refreshments available. Any items left at the end will go to the Hallow Car Boot sale on 31 May or to charity shops—not landfill!

### ***Martley Pre-School Snippets***

Welcome to Oakley Mason, Paige Richards, Christopher Nott and Ross John, who all started Pre-School this term. We would also like to welcome Katie Albutt (staff). Katie is working in breakfast and after-school clubs, as well as Pre-School cover.

Many thanks to the parents who attended our EGM and are now much-valued committee members. Kate Partridge is Chair, Alison Findlay secretary and Brian Hunt remains as treasurer. Our website, [www.martleypreschool.co.uk](http://www.martleypreschool.co.uk), has been updated and if you are a member of Facebook, you can search 'martley pre-school' and become a fan, which will enable you to access to up-to-date information such as snow closures and activity info. Photos of children will not be published without parental permission.

### **Students**

We have many students with us at the moment. Laura and Sophie from the University of Worcester, Georgia and Briony from Worcester College of Technology and several students from the Chantry High school who come to us for an hour on Monday mornings. I

would like to assure you that all students are supervised by our staff and college students have CRB police checks prior to starting with us.

### **Topics**

For many years, although pre-school education has been 'topic based', topics were chosen by staff. Now activities are determined by child needs and interests. In January and February children learnt about space and planets, and March and April about animals. Observations made by staff inform what the children learn next and where we can extend their learning.

We are a registered eco-setting with 20 years of history. Children can start from two years old and are entitled to 15 hours free from the term after their third birthday. We also have breakfast, after-school clubs and holiday clubs for children aged two to thirteen years. If you need information, or to book a place for your child, please call Kath or Lucy on 01886 889127, email [info@martleypreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@martleypreschool.co.uk) or visit our website [www.martleypreschool.co.uk](http://www.martleypreschool.co.uk)

*Kathryn Smith*

*BA (Hons) FdA eyp status*

### ***Martley Rock, Christmas Trees and Miss Phillips***

Martley is of note for many reasons, not least due to its unusual geology. For hundreds of years the great and the good in geological academic circles have been visiting to wonder, in particular at Martley Rock. Martley Rock is the only example to be found

in England (apart from the Malverns) where pre-Cambrian formations come to the surface. These are the oldest rocks in England at around 700 million years. Previously there was a small quarry on the site, but this was later filled in and planted over with Christmas trees (more of which later). So it was that in February 2010, geologists from the Woolhope society, led by Dr Paul Olver and the Earth Heritage Trust (Natalie Watkins), together with local landowners and users, spent a day tramping, measuring and recording. More than that, a trench was excavated. Not the usual Time Team itsy-bitsy one; no - this one was more akin to the Panama Canal or, not to exaggerate, a cutting on the M5. What it showed was an amazing and beautiful cross section of faults and co-existing varied rock formations within a confined area in a local field. The trench is to be left open for the time being and geologists will visit to better document this fascinating exposure. Later this year, Dr Olver is proposing a course in geology, if anyone is interested. Details to be announced.

Now for two lovely side stories, worth recording and passing on.

Firstly, I mentioned Christmas trees: Mrs Margaret Taylor told me that they had been planted by a young South African rugby player called Ruben Kruger, who visited Worcester to play, I guess late 80's. Margaret still refers to the trees as Ruben's trees. If any of you saw the film "Invictus", Ruben, who played in the SA World Rugby

Cup winning side in 1995, was portrayed by Grant Roberts. Margaret showed me the scrap book she keeps and also said that sadly he died January this year, after battling brain cancer for ten years. Some of you might remember him visiting.

And now for Miss Phillips. In Margaret's garden there is a large lump of rock placed on a tree stump. She asked that it be identified and Dr Olver obliged. Apparently it is known as 'Miss Phillip's Conglomerate'! In geological circles this is very important as her work in the 1840s disproved Murchison's theories about the intrusive origin of the Malvern Hills. Miss Anne Phillips worked with her brother John and also acted as housekeeper to their uncle, who educated them. He was none other than the father of British geology, William Smith, and subject of Simon Winchester's wonderful read 'The Map that Changed the World'.

Finally, a reminder that guide books to the Geopark Way are available in Martley shops

*John Nicklin*



### **Teme Valley Views from the Teme Valley Children's Centre**

"RoSPA's purpose is to save lives and reduce injuries" - RoSPA's (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) Mission statement. It is one of the world's leading safety organisations, and has been in

existence for more than 90 years. An independent professional body and a registered charity, it draws on voluntary expertise available to it through its national committees and its income is derived largely from subscriptions. The Government also makes grants towards specific areas of RoSPA's activities.

Home accidents in the UK result in the death of over 4000 people and cause a further 2.7 million people to seek hospital treatment for injuries. Over a million of these injuries are to children. These figures are only the tip of the iceberg as many home accidents are either dealt with by local GPs or go unreported. Teme Valley Children's Centre and RoSPA are working together to prevent home accidents by raising awareness of the dangers in the home through training, publicity and education.

For more information about RoSPA and home safety and the services that could be available to you and your home please contact the Children's Centre on 01886 812982 or see [www.rospace.com](http://www.rospace.com).

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

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held On Monday 1 March 2010 at the Memorial Hall

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

A parishioner confirmed that the hedge growing across the road from the Village Hall has been dated at 400 years. Martley Recreation Association

confirmed that a contact number for booking the playing fields will be published in the April issue of The Villager.

#### **Minutes:**

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

#### **Outstanding actions from previous minutes:**

The Clerk has sent a request to the grant adviser at Worcester County Council regarding: The milestone (metal plate), the play area, the signs (designed sometime ago by Chantry pupils). Issues on pot holes and sitting water are still to be addressed. The Clerk has added the following to the fault report and letter: blocked drains on The Martley-Witley Road to it, particularly adjacent to Penny Patch and Penny Patch Cottage, Hillside, and sent the letter to Highways. Awaiting response from CALC in terms of lengthman's contract. Millennium Green bin has not been emptied as it is not clear whose responsibility it is to empty it. The Clerk to investigate.

#### **Progress reports:**

*The Clerk.* Duncan Rudge, MHDC Planning Officer, will attend a future Parish Council meeting for a planning question and answer session – possibly 12 April 2010. MHDC has requested a grit bin for Prickley Green and has reported the broken bin opposite Pudford Lane. All bins should have all been filled now; any empty bins please report to the Clerk. The Clerk will also ask for bins for Hope House Lane/Willow Road



junction, Lower Hollins Lane and by The Rodney at the junction of Ankerdine and Newtown. There are no records held by MHDC to state whether Martley is a designated poop scoop area. The Clerk is to ascertain who would have responsibility of emptying bins if the centre of the village was to be so designated. The works will start on Holt Fleet Road at the end of March 2010. The Councillor vacancy will be advertised shortly. The Clerk now has contact with the litter warden. Site Allocations and Policies event has been rearranged for Friday 19 March 2010 10.30-7.00pm. Malvern Hills Mobile Youth Unit has been offered for the use of the parish. The Clerk will forward this information to Emma Rothwell (Youth Champion). The Clerk is to write to a user of the bottle bank asking them to dispose of their empty bottles in the bins rather than on the ground by the side of the bins. Ham Bridge will be closed from 20 March 2010 for 3 days. The Clerk confirmed that several parishioners had made contact regarding comments in the previous minutes about the estate not being gritted in the poor weather. All asked for recognition to be given to those who helped stranded neighbours and some saying that they appreciate it would be too difficult to access the estate with a gritter and therefore residents need to be careful in the bad weather.

*Lengthsman.* The Clerk is waiting for a response from CALC around the contract. Invoices have been submitted

along with work schedules. All work has been undertaken from the previous meeting. The contract will be rolled on for another 3 months. The Clerk has received contact from another lengthsman who would be interested to work in Martley. References will be sought and kept on file for future reference.

*Evening transport.* The Clerk will advise Broadheath that we have received 3 expressions of interest around the evening transport suggestion.

*Weighbridge.* The Clerk has met with the surveyor from WCC; he is going to update the lease. British Gas are looking into who paid all previous electricity charges. The Police have agreed to fund the improvement work needed on the weighbridge. Martley Parish Council resolved to pay the invoice for the work and then claim this back from the Police. The Clerk is to forward the quote to Cllr Metcalfe.

Potholes, drains and bins. The majority of Councillors gave their maps to the Clerk with markings made for each of the above. Others will provide marked maps for the next meeting.

#### **District and County Councillors' reports:**

District Cllr. Mrs. Williams reported that council tax will increase by 2.5% for MHDC for 2010-11. The revised arrangements for waste collection will start from 1 April 2010. Cllr. Stammers noted that the new service will not accept shredded paper.

County Cllr. Davies reported that

Highways have been given a growth budget of £26 million, £15 million for rural roads and £11 million for flood alleviation and footways. The footway by The Crown to the pumping station is to be improved. There have been 5000 potholes appear in the county since January. There have been 19 gangs out who have been repairing 700 a week but maintenance is reactive as opposed to proactive. Some potholes each week are dug out and edged but the remainder are patched. Also mentioned: the proposal for The Chantry and Baxter College to become an Educational Trust, Ham Bridge Closure, the work due to start at Holt Fleet by Enterprise, the Worcester Transport Strategy and the quarterly evaluation report. As a result of questions asked by Parish Council to County Cllr. Davies, the Clerk will send a copy of the letter regarding poor workmanship to John Wallace. Discussion was held about the lorry being stuck for a matter of days on Pudford Lane. The Clerk will remind Worcester County Council that she has asked them about getting signs for Pudford Lane.

### **Planning:**

#### *New*

10/00187/HOU 18 Mortlake Drive - Single storey front and rear extensions. 10/00105/FUL Rodge Hill Farm – Change of use and alterations to one bay of existing agricultural barn. Installation of pipe work trenches 1m deep to serve ground source heat pump. 10/00126/FUL Barn adjacent to Hillside Farm,

Hillside – Proposed agricultural implement storage building.

#### *Pending*

09/01604/OUT Outline application for development of land with 83 dwellings, including 33 affordable dwellings and 2 live work units. Provision of new doctors surgery and parking (to be shared with the Crown Public House) Open space and pavilion. All matters reserved except access.

#### *Permitted*

09/01670/HOU Orchard Bungalow, Newtown – Replace existing garage/workshop and construction of additional access. 10/00090/FUL Rodge Hill Farm – Conversion of barns to form staff and guest accommodation, including works to rectify previous unauthorised alterations to a listed building. Variation of condition 2, 4 and 11 on application number 09/00662/FUL.

#### *Refused*

No refusals.

### **Speed signs:**

The Clerk is to arrange a demonstration by 3M and will chase Safety Camera Partnerships for a reply.

### **Finance:**

Martley Recreation Association will be paid in full for the cost of insurance on the field. Robert Davis will be employed as internal auditor if charges are less than £85.

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

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, Bank Holidays excepted.

## ***Martley's Past***

Some notes on the Girls' School, May 1871.

1 May. The children have this week had several lessons in Numeration and Notation and they seem not only to like the lessons, but also to persevere in getting the exercises right. Miss Hastings came on Tuesday (2nd) to practice the children of the choir and on Friday to give Scripture to the first and second classes.

8 May. The attendance this week has been very poor owing to so many of the children being obliged to stay away for the purpose of gathering cowslips. Miss Hastings has been in twice this week, once to examine the needlework and once to reprove the choir for their inattention over the singing in church.

15 May. Three girls have been corrected this week for fighting and not speaking the truth concerning it. They were taken away from the other children and solemnly warned about the dreadful consequences that might befall such behaviour and entreated not to do so again, after which all seemed truly sorry. The Revd H J Hastings has visited us this week as usual for the purpose of examining the first and second classes in Scripture.

22 May. Miss Hastings visited the school twice this week; once to practice the choir and once to hear the first class read. On Friday afternoon the children broke up for one week's holiday, it being Whitsuntide.

*Alan Boon*

## **Martley Library Opening Times**

Monday 2—7 pm

Wednesday 4—6 pm

Thursday 10am -1 pm

Friday 2 - 4 pm

Saturday 10am -12 noon

*01886 888396 (opening hours only)*

## **MARTLEY AMATEUR DRAMATICS "MAD"**

**Proudly present**

## ***ESTHER***

**A new musical inspired by the  
biblical story of Esther,  
a young Jewish girl who saves  
her people.**

**An evening of song and dance  
evoking the mystery and  
romance of ancient Persia  
Music and Lyrics by R. M.  
Mace, resident musician at St  
Peter's Martley.**

**Martley Village Memorial Hall**

**2.00PM. and 7.30PM**

**Saturday 15 May 2010**

**Tickets £5 available from**

**Martley Post Office, The  
Admiral Rodney Or MAD  
publicity 01886 833897**



# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

**WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS**

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



## ***Church Flowers***

2 May Mrs G Britten Long  
9 May Rogation Day Lower Teme  
Valley Farm  
16 May Ladies Fellowship  
23 May Mrs M Thompson  
30 May Volunteer please

## ***Ladies Fellowship***

The Ladies Fellowship will meet at  
2.30pm on 18 May. Venue to be  
decided.

## ***Wichenford PCC***

The next PCC meeting will be on 17  
May at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall.

## ***Wichenford 100 Club***

March winners: No 84 C Wetherall  
£75.00 and returned subscriptions to  
No. 46 P M Bather, no. 216 S  
Johnson: drawn by M Fawkes  
I keep telling readers that our method  
of drawing winners might appear to be  
fixed when in reality it is just  
suspiciously co-incidental in the  
connections between the person  
drawing and the numbers being

drawn. This month has been no  
exception. My sister was visiting so I  
asked her to do the honours and she  
drew ..... our mother's number!  
Never in all the years of running the  
100 Club have either my number or  
hers been lucky. It is almost enough to  
make one overlook the fact that Mrs  
Wetherall's second number has come  
up trumps four months after her other  
number won!

*Heather Rendall*

## ***Wichenford Memorial Hall***

The Memorial Hall needs your support  
to maintain it and bring it in line with  
21st century and return it to becoming  
a focal point in our village. It badly  
needs better facilities, a face-lift and a  
new kitchen.

Our chairman (Dixon Stinton),  
secretary (Margaret Fisher) and vice  
chairman (Peter Andrews) have all  
just retired at the recent AGM leaving  
us leaderless for the moment.  
However, we are recruiting new  
committee members and hope to have  
a dynamic leadership soon. A Silent  
Auction sale was held at the end of

March, and raised nearly £1,600 towards the hall, coupled with an extremely generous donation of £1,000 from a very loyal supporter. If you would like to join our committee and help the Memorial Hall, please contact Paul Furber on furber@supanet.com, or Georgina Britten Long on gblwichenford@aol.com. The meetings are not onerous, and we only have about four a year, and we could really do with your help.

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



Nora Parsons Day Centre

Nora Parsons Day Centre based in Wichenford is totally operated by volunteers and provides day care facilities 2 days per week for isolated and lonely persons living in 21 surrounding villages. The Members enjoy painting classes, Extend exercise classes, talks, bingo sessions, etc. Most important however is the opportunity to socially interact with others, including the volunteer drivers and helpers.

We urgently need more volunteer drivers and if you feel that you would be able to spare as little as 1 hour per week on a Monday or Thursday at 9.30am or 3.00pm please contact Mrs Margaret Johnson on 01905 754410. A mileage allowance will be paid.

### ***Arthur Smith***

Arthur was born at Peg House Farm on Easter Sunday 24 March 1940 and

christened at Wichenford Church later that year. He and his younger sister Winifred both grew up on the family farm and started their education at Broadwas School. Aged 8, Arthur went to the Kings School, cycling in every day. After leaving school, Arthur joined his father, Harvey, on the farm that had been in the Smith family since 1879. He joined Martley Young Farmers and soon became expert at debating, pig and poultry judging and poultry trussing. He was secretary, chairman and later on, on the advisory committee.

Arthur's eye was caught by Anne, and plucking up courage, he invited her to Martley YFC's Harvest Supper. The rest, as they say, is history. They married in June 1964, setting up home at Wants Green House where later Philip and Susan were born. Arthur joined the Broadheath Discussion Club and became chairman. He also became Church Warden at Wichenford church. In 1969, Arthur, Anne, Philip and Susan moved to the Peg House where Arthur excelled as a competent farmer, producing cattle and sheep to the highest standard, frequently winning the class for Hereford cattle and beating off strong competition at Kidderminster market. He prided himself on his immaculate barns of hay and straw, but would never ask anyone to do a job he couldn't do himself.

The Hop and Cheese Fair at Worcester Market was always a must for Arthur. He loved going to shows with Philip and his pedigree sheep, including

Tenbury, Burwarton and Moreton-in-Marsh seeing grandsons, Mark and Daniel, win prizes for showing.. Arthur was a great Wichenford supporter: he helped at the fete and Open Gardens and many other village activities. He had a superb garden that he enjoyed growing produce for the fete. Anne was taken ill two years ago, and was in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for seven weeks. Arthur's illness was diagnosed ten years ago, but he never complained and just got on with things, pottering around the farm and garden right up until Christmas, but sadly, on Boxing Day, was admitted to hospital.

Arthur was a farmer through and through, a true and dedicated countryman, who took pride in his farm and livestock, who put his wide knowledge into practice. As a friend he was someone you could rely on; he was the most genuine person, true to his word; loved fun and always had a twinkle in his eye. He was a family man, devoted both to the wider family, but especially to Anne, Philip, Sue, Andy and his three grandchildren, Mark, Daniel and Katie. They were so loved by him – they were his life. To them we extend our very deepest sympathy at this sad time.

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

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15 March 2010 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

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

The district councillor reported the council tax increase of 2.5%. The SWJCS next meeting is at Martley village hall on 19 March. The Malvern Hills District Council was one of only three District Councils in the West Midlands to score 3 (a high score) for Use of Resources. County Councillor Davies reported that the objection report for Guises and Rosses Lane is being prepared. Councillor Davies will receive it with a recommendation by Easter. An extra £26 million will go into highways. It is hoped that phase 1 of the transport strategy is approved. Some parishioners have been sent a letter regarding the Holt Fleet road works. The big change is not closing the road. 6000 pot holes have been repaired with 800 done last week. There are 19 gangs out on the road. In September/October the highways department will be looking at all the areas that grit bins were requested during the snow. The clerk can contact J Wallace at county hall and ask for a copy of the winter gritting routes for our area.

### **Minutes**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

### **Progress Reports**

Cllrs. Rendall and Panton attended two meetings about the transport strategy and completed the consultation paper which has now been returned. The maps that were enclosed with the consultation paper were very inadequate and it was

difficult to see where the proposals were going to be. Not making the southern link road a dual carriageway is the wrong decision and will cause a bottleneck if the northern link road is not completed.

### **Planning**

*Applications considered since the last meeting*

10/00111/HOU Whistlers Brooke, Wichenford. The parish council has no objection to this proposal.

### **Finance**

The balance for the 26 February stands at £14,516.15.

### **Rosses/Guises Lane**

The Chantry High School use Rosses Lane as part of their cycling route. Alan Moore has been told about this. The school will be writing to the County Council and informing Health and Safety which should help with the case put forward by the CC for a permanent TRO.

### **Parish Paths Partnership**

Cllr. Rendall has the latest application to complete. Peg House Wood footpath was done recently by the CC with volunteers. Two stiles are needed around The Kedges but the footpath warden is no longer available. The council was asked if a quote for the work could be obtained from Martley Path-or-Nones. Two parishioners from Cockshoot have agreed to go for training and will eventually take on the role of footpath wardens. A replacement needs to be found for Mr Wells.

### **Councillors Training**

Cllr Randall said the meeting at

Wichenford village hall arranged by MHDC was very well organised and feedback has been good. Councillors have also attended meetings on the Transport Strategy.

### **To Report Any Urgent Decisions Since the Last Meeting**

A letter of resignation from Nigel Oldfield has been received. Councillors would prefer a replacement from the Kenswick area.

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

Councillors met the community emergency support team who will help the parish with an emergency plan. The Shindig Touring Scheme Company seemed like a good idea but on closer inspection there was too many legalities involved for a small parish.

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

Meetings were arranged for 19 April APM and 24 May (annual meeting) 2010. All will be in the Memorial Hall Wichenford at 7.30pm.

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*(Continued from page 24)*

from oil-derived plastics is consumed by British households each year. 2/3 of it is used in food production. 57miles is the average distance a tonne of freight now travels by road. In 1953 it was 21 miles. 95% of our food products require the use of oil, and the supply of food accounts for 21% of Britain's energy use. 3.5 ltrs of oil is needed to produce 1/2 a kg of steak.

*Angie Hill*

## ***Transition: what does it mean?***

On 30 March. John Raine, Jan Dyer and Nic Harrington hosted a Transition Roadshow in Martley Memorial Hall. A showed a film about the Transition movement and an interesting discussion followed. It's all about what can we do to ease the transition from our current way of life to a more sustainable one—it's hard to avoid the phrases "climate change" and "peak oil" these days. Mankind is about to face some of the toughest challenges ever. They will affect us all.

So, what does it mean to Martley residents? Does it concern us at all? I happen to believe it does. Many people have already switched to using energy-saving light bulbs and recycling waste. More people are being inspired to 'grow their own', are composting their garden and kitchen waste and using the recycling facilities provided by our local council. But what else can we do? It is easy to feel isolated and helpless in the face of such a problem. Enter Transition.

The transition movement originated from work Rob Hoskins did with students of Kinsale College in writing an "Energy Descent Action Plan". Transition supports local communities, raising awareness of sustainable living and building future local resilience. Communities are encouraged to find ways of reducing energy usage as well as increasing their own self-reliance — a slogan of the movement is "Food feet, not 'food miles'! A Transition Town is a community in a process of creating a future that addresses the challenges of diminishing oil and gas supplies and climate change and creates the kind of community that we would all want to be part of.

But.....

If we wait for the governments to take the lead, it'll be too little, too late. If we act as individuals, it'll be too little but ...if we act as communities, it might just be enough, just in time.

Some Transition Working Groups:

*Food*; From supporting local producers, to growing and cooking one's own food, including composting at home, land/garden-share, allotments etc. Community-supported agricultural schemes, community gardens and farmers markets. reducing food miles.

*Social*; Locally run community events, large and small.

*Transport*; Car-share schemes. Cycling. Encouraging walking or cycling to work/school.

*Energy*; From insulation clubs where people learn how to reduce heating bills to community-based green-energy production.

*Waste*; Re-use, recycle, and repair rather than throw away. Swap shops, bring-and-buy sales, re-learning old 'make do and mend' skills. Encouraging people to buy wisely, reducing packaging, composting, recycling and re-using rather than throwing away. Saying "no" to plastic bags!

*Local economy*; Supporting local trading and exchange within communities.

*Heart & Soul, and Health groups*; Local support groups for body and mind.

See [www.transitionnetwork.org](http://www.transitionnetwork.org) for more information and [www.transitionmalvernhill.org.uk](http://www.transitionmalvernhill.org.uk) for information about our local initiative.

*Get involved!!!* Everyone has something to offer. Everyone has something to gain. Help build a positive future for Martley!

Some facts for you to think about:

How we use oil: 130kg packaging made

*(Continued on page 23)*



# In the Garden



## In the Garden in May

May is one of the busiest months in the gardening year. It can bring us some very warm days, so don't forget to keep your new or young plants well-watered. Keep checking for signs of greenfly and blackfly, squash them or wash them off as soon as you spot them: remember, each one is potentially the mother of thousands!

Carry on deadheading spring-flowering bulbs and keep feeding the plants so that you get a good display next year. Tidy up pulmonarias by removing any diseased leaves and cut back straggly stems on aubretia, alyssum and arabis—they will come back quickly and be more compact. Remove forget-me-nots and other spring bedding plants that have passed their best and clear out containers that have been used for winter displays. Refill containers with fresh compost ready for summer planting in the second half of the month. Now is the time to think about hanging baskets and summer bedding plants, so, time to visit the Garden Centres and don't miss the Martley Plant Sale on 22 May.

*Transition—look out for a Transition page on [www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk)—where you can check out local activities and find out how you could get involved..*

If you don't have a vegetable patch, how about growing a cherry tomato in a pot instead of flowers? 'Gardeners Delight' and 'Piccolo' are both reliable varieties. In the kitchen garden, potatoes will need earthing-up and remove side shoots from tomatoes at least once a week. Remove runners from fruiting strawberries and check the plants for slugs and snails. You can sow beans, sweetcorn and courgettes outside now, or alternatively, sow them in modules indoors, which reduces the number lost to pests, and you can plant them out towards the end of the month.

Early May is your last chance to do a little lawn-care, before the weather becomes too dry. Apply a spring lawn fertiliser, one which contains both fertiliser and weedkiller is worth considering as you do two jobs at once. Bare patches can be seeded now, or you will have to wait until the Autumn.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Malvern Spring Gardening Show. It runs from 6 May (RHS Members) to 9 May. Orleton House, Stanford Bridge is open for charity on 30, 31 May.

JC

## Compost Awareness Week

2 – 8 May 2010. The theme is 'Give it a Grow' and aims to encourage us all to try something different. Check local newspapers for events near us.

Recycling and composting are now on Facebook: <http://zh-cn.facebook.com/worcesterrecycling>—where you can also find details of Worcestershire's subsidized compost bin scheme. AH



# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

As I write this at Easter I can see the daffodils at last springing forth in bloom revealing their glory. I am sure by now gardens should be bursting forth with much more than daffodils which have probably long gone yet will be back again. This reminds me that as we celebrate the Easter season, which we do up until Ascension Day, Christ though dead and buried bursts forth from the grave in resurrection glory bringing new life



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The Ascension

and hope to his disciples and to us today.

He himself said, "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." *John 12:24.*

Seeds and bulbs that we plant are hidden under the soil; they 'die'. Yet when the season is right we see new

life springing forth from the ground as new shoots come forth. This promise of new life, of resurrection, is for all of us if we believe and trust in the one who died and rose again himself: Jesus. It is also a hope we have that though we die, yet shall we live for ever like those seeds planted in the ground: we are buried but spring to new life in eternity with a glory that outshines even those beautiful daffodils.

Easter hope is for all year. The resurrection has happened and now brings us hope even in our most hope-

less times. May the risen Christ bring you this hope and may his risen presence be with you always. This Jesus promised just before he ascended into heaven as he stood before his disciples.

'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

God Bless you all

*Revd David Sherwin*

## Services for May



SUN 2 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
Tue 4 May	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.30pm WWRT Team Together Meeting, Wichenford Village Hall
Wed 5 May	10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Thu 6 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
<b>SUN 9 MAY - Rogation Sunday</b>	
	11am Benefice Service – The Stables, Banners Brook, Knightwick
Tue 11 May	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 12 May	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House 7.30pm Family Worship Meeting
<b>Thu 13 May</b>	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
<b>Ascension Day</b>	7.30pm Deanery Communion Service, St Philip and St James, Hallow
Sat 15 May	8.30am Mens Breakfast, The Talbot, Knightwick
SUN 16 MAY	8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.30am Morning Worship, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel 6.00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
Mon 17 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tue 18 May	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 19 May	10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Thu 20 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
<b>SUN 23 MAY</b>	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
<b>Pentecost</b>	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
Mon 24 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tue 25 May	10.00 Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 26 May	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thu 27 May	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
SUN 30 MAY	10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford

**Dates for your diary:** Fri 21 May 7.30pm Meet the Mackies – Cath and Phil from Midlands Today and Radio 5 are hosting an evening at Martley Village Hall in aid of the Nora Parsons Day Centre – All welcome.

Look out for the Beer and Hymns Evening at the Admiral Rodney in mid-May – date to be confirmed.



# 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	Aileen Parker—01886 888456
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Martley Parish Council	<i>Chair:</i> Dave Cropp—01886 888398; <i>Clerk:</i> Sally Williams—01299 832949
Martley WI	<i>President:</i> Helen CoombeyJones—01886 888294
Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Toddler Group	Will—01886 888340 or Jane—01886 888852
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Martley Young Farmers	Lou Wickens—01886-812754 or Caroline Bullock—01905-333617
Path-or-Nones	John Nicklin—01886 888318 johnn@martley.org
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Police “Surgery”	CSO Matt Smith 7184—Martley Local Policing Team Tenbury Wells Police Station extn. 3581
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org
Martley Web Mesh	Richard Jackman—01886 821237 richard@martley.org John Layton—01886888460 johnl@martley.org Tom Pearsall—01886 888256 tom@martley.org
Martley Pre-School	Kath/Lucy—01886 889127 www.martleypreschool.co.uk
Martley Recreation Association (playing fields)	<i>Bookings</i> —Pat Owen 1886 888406 pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303 or Sheila Richards—01886 888378
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431
Wichenford Local Heritage Group	Heather Rendall—01886 888239

To put organisation and its contact details 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 ...***

## ***Coming next month:***

Tina Steele's tale of a popular landlord—who was he and which pub was he landlord of? Find out in the June issue of *The Villager*

And, oh, then of course there is the one for St Richards in July at Birtsmorton—find out what delights await you at Birtsmorton, and why!

### ***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**

Taylors 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 in 2010:

5 May	26 May	16 June
7 July	28 July	18 August
8 September	29 September	20 October
10 November	1 December	22 December

Any enquiries should be made to Stourport Library, Worcester Street, Stourport, Worcs DY13 8EH, tel: 01905 822722  
stourportmobile@worcestershire.gov.uk