

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 17 No. 6

November 2007

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

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

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

3rd Sunday in the month:

Path-or-Nones. Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help maintain the footpaths

Mondays

1st Monday in the month:

Martley Parish Council 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

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

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

Martley Mums & Tots 9.30-11.30am
Martley Memorial Hall

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing
7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

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

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

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

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

Weight Watchers: 6.30pm -7.30pm
Martley Memorial Hall

See Church Words for details of services

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

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

See page 29 for contact details of organisations

Records of the Parish Council meetings in the two parishes are not intended to be full minutes. Minutes of meetings can be seen by contacting the respective Clerks to the Councils. The minutes of the Martley parish Council can be seen at www.martley.org

Articles to go in The Villager must be with the Editor by the 1st of the previous month

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



Whoops!

The Villager would like to apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment caused to readers or contributors by the replacement of four pages of the October issue of The Villager by pages previously printed in the September issue. This was a printing error and not an editorial one. The missing material is printed in this issue.

Martley Show – August 2007

This year's show was, to the say the least, something of a soggy affair with driving rain and high winds being two of the main challenges for the day (as well as holding on to the W.I. tent long enough to actually put it together)!

Despite everything the elements could throw at us, we think the day was still a success. Tenbury Teme Valley



Band found temporary accommodation (albeit cosy) under the shelter of the cricket

pavilion and the Worcester Martial Arts gang showed off their skills under a gazebo before putting on their display in the Village Hall. 'Scruffs' continued in true English tradition in the appalling conditions, the face painters huddled under a large umbrella and Rev Sherwin proved that the face paints do not run in the rain!

Not to mention everything that was going on in the Village Hall, where else could you get a cuppa and slice of cake whilst looking at beautiful owls, considering whether to join up at Sport Martley and check your Tombola tickets to see if you've won all at the same time?

Our thanks go out to all who attended, whether as an exhibitor, stallholder or just a hardy individual who would not be put off by a 'drop' of rain.

If you would like to help us to organise the 2008 show, then please contact our Show Committee Chairman, Eileen Stammers on 01886 888513.

PS - Let's all start praying now for a dry Show day for 2008 !

*Helen Coombey-Jones
Martley Show Secretary*

Martley and District Horticultural Society

Martley Show

There was a considerable increase in the number of entries in classes this year, which is very encouraging. The Show was enjoyed by all, in spite of a rather wet day. Thanks to all helpers for 'Friday preparation', on 'Show Day' itself, and for the inevitable clearing up early the following week.

Trophy Winners are as follows:

R Lloyd Gibbons Open Challenge Cup. To be awarded for the best exhibit in the show: Joy Snow

Messrs Landale & Son Challenge Cup. To be awarded to exhibitor gaining most points in Section 1: Brian Draper

F W Morris Challenge Cup. To be awarded to exhibitor gaining most points in Section 2: Mike Dunnett

Ted Whelan Memorial Trophy. To be awarded to exhibitor gaining most points in Section 3 : Sylvie Jeffries

Trophy & Token of £5. To be awarded to the child 6yrs and under gaining most points in Section 4: Matthew McHugh

Trophy & Token of £5. To be awarded to the child 11yrs and under gaining most points in Section 4: Catherine McHugh

T W Sanders Trophy. To be awarded to exhibitor gaining most points in Section 5: Patricia Turner

Shield Presented by Amateur Gardening. To be awarded to exhibitor gaining most points in

Section 7: Angela Everiss

Charlie Amos Memorial Trophy. To be awarded for the best exhibit in Classes 2,4, 15 and 17: Mike Dunnett

Wilf Hill Memorial Trophy. To be awarded for the best exhibit in Class 33: D Goodyear

Society Cup. To be awarded to member of the Society gaining most points overall: Mke Dunnett

John Clark Memorial Cup To be awarded for the best exhibit in Class 5: D Goodyear

C & H Barnard Trophy. To be awarded for the best exhibit in Class 24: D Goodyear

Wendy Stinton Memorial Shield. To be awarded for the best exhibit in Class 31: Pauline Ellis

Banksian Medal. To be awarded to person winning the highest amount of prize money: Mike Dunnett

Jack Millward Memorial Trophy. To be awarded for the best exhibit in Class 22 : Joy Snow

Trophy to be awarded to exhibitor gaining most points in Section 8: Dave Cropp

Smallholder Medal. To be awarded for the best exhibit in Section 1: Brian Draper

Claudia Steele Martley Poetry Cup. To be awarded to best exhibit in Class 67: Patricia Turner

Meetings

Carol Smith talked on 'Garden Design' at the meeting on 27 September at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

We are all most grateful to Mrs Valerie Rivers and Mr & Mrs David Piggott for their hospitality at our June meeting. A very enjoyable and educational evening, followed by delicious refreshments at the Piggott's. Both gardens most beautiful!

Tina Steele

Pensax Thrift Shop

Wednesday 26 September - Come and have coffee with us between 9am and 11am in aid of Cancer Research's Biggest Coffee Morning! There will be a small raffle, Bring and Buy and a cake stall.

Wednesday 3 October - Mr Bob Seaward will be with us at around 10 am to collect the cheque for the money raised in aid of The Air Ambulance. To date this sum stands at £1652.50,. There is also a raffle in aid of the charity of a hand made (by Ann Pratt of Thrift Shop) patchwork quilt - (king-size). This will be drawn in November when there will be a small tombola. Christmas cards will be on sale by then as well.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ben Taylor who has graduated from Bristol UWE with a 2:1 in Law. With all our love and best wishes for the future, Mum, Dad, Sarah and Harry.

Quiz Night with Supper

A Quiz Night with supper was held in

Martley Village Hall on Friday 12 October, priced at £5 per person including supper – tables of four, with good prizes, raffle and an open bar. For information about future Quiz Nights, please phone Dave Cropp on 01886-888398, John Woolley on 01886-888104 or speak to R McHugh at the Central Stores, Martley.

Martley Reformatory

A query

As avid readers of The Villager, due to ancestors coming from Martley and Wichenford (the Hickens/Jones), we wondered if you could help out with a query. A reader of our local weekly history newspaper, The Black Country Bugle, has asked if anyone knows about a place called Woodbury Hill Reformatory, Martley. According to the 1881 census, his ancestor was there in 1881 and he wondered what sort of Reformatory it was. I have checked my local books of your area and can find no trace of this institution.

We started researching our family tree many years ago with my mother, whose gran's family used to keep 'The Masons Arms' in Wichenford. She was Jane Hicken, and her father was William Hicken, who was a Mason and married Eleanor Jones daughter of Shadrach Jones of Berring Bush Farm, Wichenford. They owned a lot of property in the area. Many of the family are buried in Wichenford and Martley, which we visit quite

frequently. Great Gran married in Birmingham (don't know why), moved to Worcester where grandad was born (the house is still there). He then ended up in West Bromwich (don't know how but probably for work) and here we still live. We have tracked various members of the family all over England. James Hicken (buried in Wichenford) died in Bradford after being run over by a train. Another relative was given a hero's funeral in Worcester because he was in the Charge of the Light

Brigade! We have many tales which I'm sure my sister will be sharing at the Wichenford History Fair.

Barbara Humphreys

(If anyone has information for Barbara or about the Wooddbury Reformatory, please contact msh_47@yahoo.co.uk 01886888344 and I will put you in touch.)

Jack's Doors are Open

On behalf of the family of the late Jack Bradley, we offer sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the collection following Jack's death last October. The collections at the funeral service and at the Village Hall in lieu of flowers, and the donations to Holland's Funeral Directors, came to over £1,000.

The collections were made for the Village Hall, which Jack had so much



Parish Council Chairman Dave Cropp with Nellie Bradley, opening Jack's Doors

to do with, and the family felt it would be good to provide something useful for the Hall.

The Hall Committee decided the building needed some new front doors, and with the aid of grants, the money was put towards paying for a new set of front doors, which were opened before a recent Parish Council meeting. The family would like to offer thanks to everyone for their generous donations and to Dave Cropp and the Village Hall Committee for their help in buying and installing the doors and putting the commemorative plaque up in the hallway.

We feel these are a fitting tribute to Jack's memory and he would be amused that the money in his memory has been put to such a good use....and he would have wanted a set of keys as well!

Dave Bradley

A Taste of Success!

Martley resident Val Weddell-Hall was interviewed on Radio Hereford & Worcester in October when the school of which she is Head Teacher, received a “thumbs up” for Worcestershire for catering in their OfSTED report. Using locally-sourced, organic produce and serving colourful stir-fries and Rainbow Pizza seems to have whetted the appetites of the Franche Community Primary School pupils.

Following the guidelines set out by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, Val and her working group comprising governors, staff, parents and children as well as the catering team, invited



parents and children to tasting sessions as the new dishes were introduced. As well as new dishes for lunches, pupils can also sample a smoothie or fruit juice and a muffin at break time. Val says that the new healthy eating regime has certainly worked in her school and expressed thanks to Worcestershire County Council for fully refurbishing the school's kitchen, which was dismantled and closed several years ago as an economy measure. She says “If you are ever in Kidderminster, do come and join us for lunch!” Congratulations, Val!

M.Higgins

Four Famous Artists

Those who attended last year's course on Astronomy expressed a desire to learn something of the history of art.

To that end we have arranged for Andrew Kneen, who lectures in that subject to the University of the Third Age, to present a four-evening course early in the new year. As last year, proceeds will go to church funds.

The course will be held in the Shelsleys Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

The highly-illustrated course will trace the life history and development of each artist and compare and contrast their work.

Wednesday 16 January:

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

Wednesday 30 January:

Albrecht Durer (1471-1528)

Wednesday 13 February:

Pieter Brueghel (1520-1569)

Wednesday 27 February:

Stephen Lowry (1887-1976)

Each evening will be a stand-alone event and can be paid for on the door but it is possible to book the full course for £25. Individual evening attendance will be £7.50. Wine or coffee as interval refreshments is included in the cost. It would help the administration if those wishing to sign up for the full course could pay in advance. Cheques to AJT CRABBE (CHARITY) at Fetterlocks Farmhouse, Fetterlocks Lane, Shelsley Beauchamp, WR6 6QS; Tel: 01886 812373.



What we did in the holidays

Martley Mums & Tots has settled back into the term again. We had an exciting summer. Though many toddler groups and other children's activities close over the summer holidays, Martley Mums & Tots enjoyed a fun-filled summer programme.

Some of the highlights were a walk through the Knapp & Paper Mill Nature Reserve, Party in the Park at Droitwich Lido Park and Forest Playtime at the Wyre Forest Centre. Only one trip was rained out, so we were very lucky.

The walk through the Knapp fell on one of the hottest days of the summer. The many little legs had a good walk along the river and up into the woods. Older siblings were on hand to dish out well-earned rations and keep an eye on speedier adventurers. The walk was followed by a pub lunch at The Fox & Hounds in Lulsley, where the children's boundless energy was put to good use on the play equipment while Mums and Dads collapsed under sun umbrellas with a "ploughman's".

Party in the Park saw a slightly chillier day, but no less fun. The playground was the first stop followed by a picnic listening to the bands playing. A free bouncy castle brought smiles all round. Then the children had great fun trying out unicycles, juggling, stilts

and other circus skills. A couple of mums had a go at the stilts and hula-hooping – purely for educational purposes of course!

Forest Playtime at the Wyre Forest Centre was our last outing. With wooden animals to find, mobiles to make, huts to investigate and drawings with berries, the activities were fun and inspiring. A certain giant slug was quite an attraction! Even those mums who couldn't make the activities joined in for a picnic and ice cream after.

Martley Mums & Tots is held every Tuesday morning from 9.30 to 11.30am at the Martley Memorial Hall. We have a special storytelling and library visit on the second Tuesday of every month and an activity visit from the Teme Valley Children's centre on the last Tuesday of each month. We'd love to see you. Call Sue on 01886 888829 or drop by.



Martley WI

14 November in Heaton House 7.30pm

Once again it is AGM time when we review doings, comings and goings over the last year and what we hope to do and achieve over the next year. It has been a busy time, as usual, and hopefully all members have enjoyed it. One disappointment was the cancellation, due to floods, of our summer sunset cruise. We do not have

a speaker this month, but doubtless the committee will have something to keep us amused after the business has been dealt with. The competition this month is for a favourite pudding, and there are no prizes for guessing what we shall be enjoying with our cups of tea or coffee.

Kate King

Congratulations!

Silver Surfer Entrepreneur

Richard Jackman, mover and shaker behind Martley Web Mesh and Martley Online, has been awarded the Silver Surfer Entrepreneur of the Year Award, having been nominated by Helen Anderson. During October he will be going down to the House of Commons to receive his award from Stephen Timms, MP and Minister for Competitiveness. Well done, Richard!

Martley Spurs

September certainly did not get off to a good start to the new season. The Saturday Premier side, last year's cup winners, lost badly to Pershore Manor in their first game of the season, as did the Reserves the next morning when they lost to Perowne Park Rangers. Neither Premier side had a fixture the following weekend but the Reserves played much better and beat Droitwich Spa Reserves with a 4-1 win.

The 15th saw the Saturday Premier eleven draw one all with Upton Town, but the Sunday Premier side could not do the same and lost by one goal to

Kempsey. The Reserves also lost beaten by Colwall St James. More poor results came on the 22nd when the Saturday team lost to Worcester YMCA and the Sunday Premier eleven lost to Prinner Sports while the Reserves also got beaten, this time by PCX1. The poor results obviously mean all three teams are still very much down on the league tables, but are sure they will soon get into a winning streak.

Post Office Parking

We have received many complaints from our customers that they are unable to park outside the Post Office due to people parking there to use the Central Stores. We must point out that our parking spaces are for the private use of our customers only, therefore we would appreciate it if people using the Central Stores would park there. Thank you.

Martley Ramblers

4 November 10am Church Car Park

The AGM is to be held at Hillend Cottage, home of Harry and Kate King at 8pm on Monday 19 November. Treasurer Pam Bowers will tell us if we are still solvent and Chairman Harry King will report on what we did and did not do over the season. The programme of planned walks was disrupted by foot and mouth bans and flooding of footpaths. Many thanks to members who stepped in to lead in alternative areas. The walk this month

will be near to home in and around Martley. Pam Bowers will be leading, leaving the church car park at 10am. Please note this is the first Sunday in the month to avoid clashing with Remembrance Sunday. There is no walk planned for December, but this can be arranged if members would like one. Don't forget to bring suggestions for walks for 2008 when coming to the AGM.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

The on-going saga of Lane folk

Autumn has arrived a little later than usual, but then, the seasons have been awry for most of the year. Blame global warming, of course. Water still dribbles down the lane, so many months after the summer floods. The number of swallows who congregate on the power lines to say "Good bye" was smaller than usual. It is always sad to see them preparing to leave and know that summer is truly over, and to think what long journeys they have before we see them again in the spring.

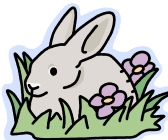
The number of lorries up and down the lane has eased off. The verges are recovering and it is quite surprising how many flowers are appearing, obviously thinking it is spring already. Thank goodness someone seems to have done something to correct the sat-nav situation. It was quite worrying to have to re-direct lost lorries plus one emergency ambulance

whose drivers were quite lost and quite positive their sat-nav systems must be correct.

The ultimate "find" in the lay-by must be the white box van apparently dumped there. The lay-by operative has not been able to stuff it into the usual rubbish sacks but is sure he can cope with it somehow. Any suggestions will be gratefully received.

NB: No report from the Hillend Meadows SSSI this month. All is quiet on that front, and badgers, foxes and rabbits are clearing any excess fruit, filling their tums ready for the winter.

Kate King



Tem Valley Views

A child's first step is a developmental milestone that most parents will never forget. After that first staggering step, their confidence just grows and grows. Leaps and Bounds provides a safe environment for new walkers to test and develop their movement skills.

The Leaps and Bounds 'walking-to-2s' programme has been running successfully for the past two years. In most locations, Leaps and Bounds courses start at the age of 2, but we were keen that children should be

encouraged to enjoy exercise from a very early age. So, the team at Leaps and Bounds designed a course especially for children who have just learnt to walk to enjoy with their parent or carer.

Leaps and Bounds takes place every Thursday morning (during term-time) in Clifton-upon-Teme and places are available in the walking-to-2s class at 9.45am. The Coffee Haven is also available on Thursday mornings and provides a place to meet friends and chat to Children's Centre staff. Please contact the Children's Centre for more information.

For more information about the Children's Centre and other local activities please check our website (www.temevalley-cc.org.uk) or telephone 01886 812982.

Martley Parish Council

Meeting of Mon. 3 September 2007 at Martley Memorial Hall

Unapproved, abbreviated draft record.

Present: Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp, Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear, Cllr. Mr. G. Coombey-Jones, Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh, Cllr. Mr. M. Nott, Cllr. Mrs. I. Powell, Cllr. Mrs. E. Rothwell, Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor. In Attendance: Mr. T. Pearsall (Retired Clerk to The Parish Council), Mrs. S. Williams (Clerk to The Parish Council), 4 members of the public.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

The Chairman invited questions or statements about Parish business: 1.

The Clerk is to ask Len Hoskins about play equipment at the next meeting. 2. Nigel Potter, Rural Housing Officer for Community First attended the meeting. Community First are looking at the affordability of rural housing. Nigel Potter asked the Parish Council for permission to issue a free of charge survey to the community of Martley to ascertain their views on this matter. The Chairman confirmed that a similar survey had been carried out about three years ago by Community First which had identified the need for affordable housing and a site was identified; however, MHDC had turned the proposal down. The Parish Council welcomed the offer of a review survey from Community First and offered its support in delivering the survey to Martley. The Chairman opened the meeting at 20:02.

125-07: Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr. Mr. N. Hall and accepted.

126-07: Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interests: There were no declarations of interest in the agenda.

127-07: Minutes of the last meeting held on 6 August 2007: It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

128-07: District Cllr.'s Report: Cllr.. Mrs. B. Williams gave the Clerk some flood relief grant aid forms. Cllr.. Mrs. B. Williams was invited by The Parish Council to the forthcoming meeting with WRG at the quarry site which is to be held at 11.30 am on either the 27 September 2007 or 4

October 2007. Mr Pearsall confirmed that he will inform all parties of the decided date as soon as he is notified.

129-07: County Cllr.'s Report: Cllr.. Mr. A. Davies thanked The Parish Council for their detailed report of flooding in Martley. Cllr. Davies reported that meetings are taking place to look into the areas affected by the flooding and how Worcester County Council can begin repairs. Cllr. Mr. A. Davies congratulated the pupils of Chantry High School on their 68.6% A-C grades which is more than last year and stands well against other local results. The Chairman acknowledged that the 'Signage' project carried out by pupils from The Chantry has reached the National Finals of Community Empowerment Awards.

Cllr. Mr. A. Davies was asked why jobs never seem to be fully completed by the council or their contractors without a delay, for example, Ham Bridge has now been repaired following the flooding but a lot of rubble has been left at the bridge awaiting collection. Cllr. Mr. A. Davies suspected that the gang that repaired the bridge should have also removed the rubble and rubbish. He was due to meet Highways shortly so he confirmed that he would get this clarified. Martley Parish Council expressed concern over what seems to be a lack of communication between departments and contractors within the County Council. Cllr. Mr. A. Davies was invited to the forthcoming

meeting with WRG at the quarry site.

130-07 Correspondence for information: Correspondence for 3 September 2007 included: Community First's News Line, WCC – Flooding and public rights of way, E-mail from Mr Mark Albutt re: trees at Martley Court, E-mail from Ron Evans, MHDC – query and complaint, E-mail from Phil Browning – Draft Licensing Policy.

131-07 Malvern Hills Flood Relief Scheme: Chairman confirmed that forms had been distributed to all areas of Martley that had suffered flood damage. 4 forms were returned and The Clerk is to forward them to MHDC with confirmation from The Parish Council that these properties were affected by the floods.

132-07 Meeting with Roger Woodward: The Clerk referred to an e-mail sent by Cllr. Hall to all Cllr.s inviting them to meet with Roger Woodward, Worcester County Road Safety Officer at 08.30am on Monday 17 September 2007 at Martley Schools. Any Cllr.s wishing to attend were asked to contact Cllr. Hall.

131-07 Planning: Applications received: August 2007. 07/01216/FUL Cedar Cob, Hillside - Bedroom extn and new garage. 07/01118/FUL 16 Hollins Lane -Erection of single storey extn (rear). 07/01120/FUL 16 Hollins Lane - Erection of 2 storey extn (rear). Approvals/refusals: 07/00800/FUL Apartment 1, Laugherne House – Withdrawn. 07/00802/LBC Apartment 1, Laugherne House – Withdrawn.

07/00996/FUL Laugherne Farm House – Approved. 07/00917/FUL Kinloss House, Laugherne Park – Approved. 07/00964/FUL Penny Patch, Hillside – Refused.

132-07 Finance: The August (this month) accounts will be considered at the next meeting together with September’s accounts. It was agreed that £500 would be ringfenced for young people in Martley Parish. Cllr. Rothwell will provide the next meeting with an update regarding youth development in Martley. The Chairman reported that the Millennium Green Trust have agreed to remove the trees from the centre. They are going to apply for Section 106 funds from MHDC through MPC as they would like to bid for capital costs for the building of a dipping pool. A fund-raising event is to be held. The Millennium Green Trust have asked MPC to consider providing £375.00 to assist in paying their liability insurance. Assurances were made that they are aiming to be self-funding following this support. The Chairman is to ask them to bring a business plan to the next meeting.

133-07 Parish Paths Warden’s

Report: No report.

134-07 Urgent Decisions since the last meeting: None.

135-07 Cllr.s Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

1. Clerk to write to Wichensford Clerk in relation to trees overhanging the road at Laugherne Hill. 2. Clerk to ask the lengthsman to cut all hedgerows back where necessary, i.e. Horsham Lane. 3. Clerk confirmed that potholes and drains are on the Councils “to do” list.

136-07 Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting is on Monday 1 October at 8 p.m. Meeting closed at 21:53 p.m.

Remember Remember the 5th of November

Yes, Bonfire Night (or nights!) is upon us again. Whilst some humans might enjoy the bangs and flashes it produces, please remember our pets and farm animals probably don’t. Make sure your own pets are safely indoors when fireworks are about, and remember to check your bonfire for sleepy hedgehogs before you light it..

MH



What’s on at Christmas?

If you are planning a Christmas – or New Year - event and would like it publicised in The Villager, please email the details to editor@martley.org or leave them at Martley Post Office BY 31 OCTOBER. I know it seems early, but the December issue of The Villager goes to be printed in mid-November.



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Flower Rota

4 November : M Fisher
11 November: Remembrance
Sunday, Mrs Britten
18 November: Remembrance
Sunday, Mrs Britten
25 November: Mrs Webb



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship will meet on 20
November in the Memorial Hall at
2.30pm.

Wichenford Heritage Group Heritage Exhibition

We were kept busy over the entire weekend with visitors, many of whom complained that they hadn't allowed enough time to look at everything in depth! Some solved the problem by coming on BOTH days! Sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make both the reception and the exhibition such a success.

We were very glad to welcome back to the village a 5th great-grand-daughter of William Hicken, master mason, who built the Mason's Arms (hence the name!) in c1802 and whose family were licensees throughout the 19th century and into the 20th. She has

kindly donated three family photos to the Group, two of which she was unable to identify. Luckily in the last few hours of the exhibition a grand-daughter of Humphrey Hemus (whose 1912 cricket team photo was on show) arrived and instantly recognised a young lady on one photograph and so identified a Hemus family portrait taken outside Bury End Bush.

We were also visited by a Mr Thrupp, curious to know whether his family might somehow be linked with the family that lived in the village from 16-19th centuries. As his family hailed from Cannock, it did not seem likely. However a quick check with the 1901 census has revealed that his grandfather was indeed born in Worcester - but whether linked or not to Wichenford Thrupps remains to be discovered!.

And last but by no means least we were delighted to meet the former secretary of The Tube Investment (Walsall) Photographic Club who visited the village in 1962 and subsequently deposited copies of all

their photos in the Worcester Record Office. We were able to thank him personally for granting the WLHG copyright permission to use his pictures. These proved a great attraction and a focus of much close scrutiny. No-one guessed all 10 of the pictures in the competition but Mrs Sheila Richards recognised 9 out of 10! Mr Will Pearce came next with 8 out of 10. Congratulations to you both - the one that fooled everyone was Newlands Cottage!

Lectures began again on 19 September and continue 17 October with The Wichenford Historic House Survey - preliminary results with Stephen Price. This month, 21 November sees Angie Bolton of the Portable Antiquities Scheme talking about how to identify "treasures" dug up in garden or field. She will explain how the scheme, which deals with any historical finds dug up or uncovered, works. If you have any "treasures", do bring them along! Lecture free to course members: £5.00 for group members: £6.00 for non-members. 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford

Wichenford 100 Club

September winner: no. 84 Carma Wetherall

PCC Meeting

The next PCC meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall on 12 November at 7.45pm.

Husbands!

Husbands, have you realised almost too late that it is your wife's birthday the next day? Never fear, there is help at hand. My husband did the same thing again this year, so he did a quick dash down to the local shop and post office and bought quite an acceptable armful: a pot of African violets, still flowering 3 months later; a box of chocolates; an expensive garden magazine, plus a bottle of my favourite drink. The last time he bought me a Parker pen! The wrapping left a lot to be desired, but then he's only a man!

Farewell and Best Wishes

Eric Delahay has farmed at Woodhall Farm for 50 years and has now semi-retired to Clifton-upon-Teme. During his time in Wichenford Eric has contributed greatly to the village, having served on the Parish Council, the Hall Committee and Fete Committee. Eric has also helped with many projects over the years for which we are most grateful and offer our sincere thanks.

We wish him every happiness in his new home and hope that he will return frequently to Wichenford.

David and Pauline Paynter

David and Pauline are also leaving Wichenford. We thank them for all they have done for the village. Pauline has served on the Hall Committee, the

Harvest Supper Committee and also helped with the organisation of the fete. We wish them a long and happy retirement and hope that they will visit us when they can.



Wedding Congratulations

Heartiest congratulations to Micky and Corleen Knott on their recent wedding. We wish them every happiness.



Concert given by Margaret Peters and Friends

This event was a great success and everyone enjoyed a musical treat given by Margaret and her friends. We are most grateful to them for entertaining us and for giving so generously their time. The pleasing sum of £430 was raised for church funds

Memorial Hall Whist Drive

The whist drive will be held on Friday 9 November at the Memorial Hall.

Mobile Library

The library visits Wichenford on the first Wednesday of the month.

We do not want to lose it, so please use it!

Malvern View

10am-10.30am

Wichenford church

10.35am-11am

Kings Green Farm

11.05am-11.35am

Rosses Green

11.40am-12.10pm

Martley Library

Opening Hours

Martley Memorial Hall
Martley, Worcs WR6 6PQ

Mon 2.00-7.00pm

Wed 4.00-7.3-0pm

Thu 10.00am-1.00pm

Fri 2.00-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-12 noon

Brotherly Love

A Sunday-School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour' thy Father and Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Immediately one little boy (the oldest of the family) answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

A trip to Bristol to see SS “Great Britain”

Saturday 11 August 2007

It was a lovely morning when 43 of us set off by coach from The Crown car park to make the journey to Bristol to see the SS Great Britain, now resting in the original dock where Brunel first built her.

After a comfortable journey, we arrived at Bristol and the Great Western Dockyard and there she was, looking splendid with colourful flags flying from her masts. We were eager to explore the ship although priority for most of us was to have a cup of coffee! However, I joined a group who were immediately taken on a tour – first going to view the iron hull of the ship as she rests on the dry dock “underwater”. Cleverly, a roof of glass and a very warm dry atmosphere below protects the iron hull from corrosion. The giant propeller and huge rudder were most impressive.

Then we were taken on deck and we could see how well the massive task of restoration had been done. Walking along the deck we passed sheds where cows, pigs and chickens were kept to provide milk and fresh meat for the passengers on their long journeys, to the steering wheel ‘aft’. Tricky to steer such a large ship, looking across to the bows from the stern. There we met Isambard



A view along the deck of SS “Great Britain”

Kingdom Brunel himself, in top hat and tails, eager to tell how he had made the largest and fastest ship to sail the seas.

Going below, we viewed the promenade decks where passengers would take their exercise, with cabins for 1st Class passengers on either side, and the ship's doctor and barber. Skylights along the length of the deck allowed natural light into the dining saloon below. This sumptuous affair with rows of gilded pillars and glass lanterns, has an area at the end set aside for entertainment. None of this was enjoyed by 3rd Class passengers in "steerage". Their quarters were in the ship's hold - row upon row of very cramped cabins with just room enough for a very narrow bunk. One bath only, for 1st Class passengers, and a row of toilets, led us to the ship's kitchen or galley and bakery. In the centre of the ship is the ship's engine - a fantastic piece of machinery. The one thousand horsepower engine was such a sensation on 1843.

It is difficult to imagine how much work has gone into restoring this ship from a rusty wreck to a semblance of what it must have been like to sail in her at the height of her success as a passenger steamer.

The museum tells of her colourful history: built by the brilliant engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, she was launched by Prince Albert on 19 July 1843 (Brunel had made her too large and it was another 18 months before they could get her out of the harbour!).

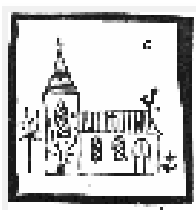
The world's first great ocean liner made her first transatlantic crossing from Liverpool to New York in 1845. As a passenger ship she sailed regularly to Melbourne, with hundreds of passengers emigrating to Australia. Many Australians today are descended from families who came over on SS Great Britain.

In 1856 she became a troop carrier engaged in the Crimean War. The 1st England Cricket Team sailed to Australia on her in 1861, then after 30 years as a passenger ship her engine and funnel were removed and she became a full-rigged cargo ship or "windjammer" sailing to San Francisco and South America, taking Welsh coal to America, she would bring back wheat and fertilizer.

In 1886 Great Britain was badly damaged in storms off Cape Horn and sought shelter in the Falkland Islands where she was used to store coal and wood. Eventually in 1937 she was towed to Sparrow Cove and abandoned in the shallow sea bed. In April 1970 she was rescued and brought home in an amazing salvage operation, travelling 8,000 miles across the Atlantic on a pontoon to arrive back in Bristol on 19 July 1970, 127 years to the day after her launch in 1843! Mr & Mrs Corti who came with us on the day were there in Bristol on that memorable day in 1970.

Thank you very much Neil for organising this very, very enjoyable trip for us.

Margaret Lloyd-James



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

The Curate With No Name

Recently I wrote an article in the Villager introducing my family. I mentioned my wife and children's names in the article but I didn't mention my own name. A number of people pointed this omission out to me - which only goes to prove that people not only read the Villager—they study it!

Well my name is Bruce. Not Bruce as in Aussie Bruce. It is likely that my parents named me after King Robert the Bruce of Scotland. And I won't dare mention the outcome of the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, here in the heart of England.

Names are important. Let me mention another one now I have brought up my Scottish background—Robert Burns, Scotland's celebrated poet. So please mark your calendars for a Burn's supper to be held at Martley Memorial Hall on Friday 25 January 2008. The parishes of Martley, Wichenford and the Lower Teme Valley will be hosting this event and all are welcome. Before we get to 25 January there will be a number of occasions to remember people by name. On 2 November at St Peter Martley at 3pm there will be a memorial service when we will have



Bruce Thompson, Curate

an opportunity to remember friends and loved ones who have passed away over the last year. If you would like anyone's name to be remembered at this service please would you inform the Revd David Sherwin or the Revd Jennifer Whittaker.

On Remembrance Sunday this year there will be services arranged to remember the people who gave their lives in the Great Wars. These services will take place at St Lawrence Wichenford, St Peter Martley and St Mary Magdalene Broadwas. Everyone is welcome to attend. They all begin at 10:45am on Sunday 11 November.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to meet up with me. I'm still at the early stages of getting to know folks who live in the area.

Revd Bruce Thomson.

Tel: 01886 888098.

Church Diary for November

Sunday 4 Nov	8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel 9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.00am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 3.00pm Memorial Service, St Peter, Martley 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Monday 5 Nov	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tuesday 6 Nov	10.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Thursday 8 Nov	2.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter, Martley
Saturday 10 Nov	7.30pm St Peter, Martley: Carl Jenkins' "The Armed Man – A Mass for Peace" sung by the Ferndale Singers
Sunday 11 Nov	10.45am Remembrance Day, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.45am Remembrance Day, St Peter, Martley 10.45am Remembrance Day, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 4.00pm Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
Monday 12 Nov	8.30am Prayer Breakfast at the home of Jennifer Whittaker 7.45pm Wichenford PCC at the Memorial Hall
Tuesday 13 Nov	7.30pm LTV PCC at Knightwick Memorial Hall
Weds. 4 Nov	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Saturday 17 Nov	2-5 and 7-10pm Scalextric Event at Broadwas Village Hall
Sunday 18 Nov	8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley 9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 11.00am Morning Worship, St Peter Martley 3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel 4.00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence Wichenford
Monday 19 Nov	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tuesday 20 Nov	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Saturday 24 Nov	8.30am Men's Breakfast at The Talbot 7.00pm Benefice Skittles at the Admiral Rodney
Sunday 25 Nov	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley 11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 4.00pm Christingle service, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter Martley
Monday 26 Nov	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Weds. 28 Nov	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House

In the Garden



Gardening Without Chemicals

Over the coming months I hope to share thoughts on gardening organically. Contrary to popular belief, it does not mean you have to have a weed infested plot, nor does it necessarily entail hours of back-breaking work. With concerns about pesticide residues in food, and climate change causing eccentric growing conditions, it makes sense to begin working with nature rather than against it.

Many pesticides kill friend and foe indiscriminately, are expensive and can build up in the soil and food chain. Tough EU regulations are reducing their availability. UK householders spend over £35 million annually on over 43000 tonnes of chemical controls!

Autumn is the traditional garden-tidying season. Try leaving an area until Spring! Seed heads provide food for birds-and hollow stems hide hibernating ladybirds. Prunings can be shredded and composted. If you have a lawn and trees, mow the grass with the fallen leaves-a perfect combination for great compost! If you have lots of

leaves, don't burn them, turn them into leaf-mould- a wonderful soil conditioner, and the basis for home-made potting compost.

To make leaf mould, put wetted leaves in a bin-liner. Seal the bag and prick it with holes and place it out of the way. After a year the leaf-mould should be half-rotted and suitable for mulching borders and vegetable plots. Perfect for growing pots of early potatoes!

AH

Sloe Gin

Sloe Gin is ideal to make during late autumn, when the sloes have had a bit of frost on them to make the skins softer.

Ingredients

Equal quantities of sloe berries & granulated sugar
Gin



Method

1. Pierce skins of each berry with head of a pin to help the gin and juice combine more readily
2. Fill a preserving jar (or other airtight jar) up to a third with berries and top up to halfway mark with sugar.
3. Pour in the gin to fill the jar. Close it. Tightly.
4. Leave liqueur for at least 2months, shaking daily to dissolve sugar. The liqueur will gradually take on a deep pink colour.

Before drinking, strain liqueur through a coffee filter and decant into bottles.

Village Contacts



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Martley & Dist Hort. Soc.	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 <i>or</i> Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
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Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
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Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Counl.	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431