

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 14 No. 5

October 2004

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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*

## October Diary

### Regular events:

#### Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing

Weds 7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

*Enquiries:* Jeff and Thelma

01886 821772

#### Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

**Telephone Service:** Mon & Tue 10am—3pm

Thu 10am—7.30pm *Great Witley & Knightwick*

**Surgeries:** Weds 10am -4pm - by appt.

01584 810860

#### Short mat Bowling Tuesdays 2.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

#### Weight Watchers Tue 6.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

*Enquiries* Tracey Hopkins

07710 493617

See Church Words for details of services

- Sat 2 **Wichenford Harvest Supper** 8pm  
Memorial Hall
- Mon 4 **Martley Parish Council Meeting** 8pm  
Memorial Hall
- Wed 6 **Wichenford Local heritage Group—  
Prehistoric Settlement** 7.30pm  
Memorial Hall
- Thu 7 **Friends of Chantry High School mtg  
+AGM** 8pm school Staff Room
- Fri 8 **Whist Drive at Wichenford** (Partner)  
8pm start
- Sun 9 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for  
local produce** 11am The Talbot,  
Knightwick  
**Martley Ramblers around  
Stourport's waterways** Meet 2pm  
Church car park
- Wed 13 **Martley WI: Barry Sutcliffe will  
teach the audience about fire safety**  
7.30pm Martley MH  
**Wichenford LHG—Hillforts** 7.30pm  
Memorial Hall
- Fri 15 **Barn Dance** in Martley Memorial Hall
- Sun 17 **Walking Not Working with the Path-  
or-Nones.** Meet 9.30am Martley Village  
Hall carpark
- Wed 20 **Wichenford LHG—Rural Roman  
Britain** 7.30pm Memorial Hall
- Thu 21 **Meeting of The Wine Club: New  
World Wines** 8pm Wichenford  
Memorial Hall
- Wed 27 **Wichenford LHG—Urban Roman  
Britain** 7.30pm Memorial Hall
- Thu 28 **Martley & District Horticultural  
Society:** Dr Tony Hughes talks on  
British Wild Orchids 7.30pm Martley  
Memorial Village Hall
- Sun 31 **All Hallows Eve** (Halloween)

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



## *Martley Parish Council*

An ordinary meeting of the Martley Parish Council was held on Monday 6 September 2004 at the Memorial Hall. Cllr Mr. D. Cropp, Chairman.

### The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

A parishioner raised the issue of the car park at The Crown Inn; the size seems much greater than that originally agreed. Much discussion took place and it was determined that the clerk would write to MHDC Planning and express the anger of the parish council about not being consulted about the change. The clerk was further instructed to write to the Standards Board about the conduct of MHDC Planning. A further matter about The Crown is that it no longer appears to have provision for a “locals bar”. The Chairman introduced PC Andrew Hood, the Beat Manager for the local area. PC Hood thanked the parish council for the invitation and for

the invitation to Martley Fete. He looks after 22 parishes in the Teme valley and confirmed that Martley is a low-crime area. There were several questions, in particular relating to speeding both in the village and in the “cut through lanes”; PC Hood gave possible solutions. A parishioner raised the matter of High House, Ankerdine, apparently being extended without planning permission. Dist. Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams confirmed that a letter had been received from Mr. David Murray who confirmed that the development “is permitted development”. The parishioners expressed concern about the “need for approval” and Dist Cllr Mrs. B. Williams agreed to discuss the issue again with Planning. The clerk was instructed to write again. A parishioner raised the matter of low-cost housing and wondered when any consultation would take place. The Chairman mentioned that he and the clerk had attended a

recent northern area planning meeting reference the proposed development at Taylors yard and had supported the application which includes low-cost housing. In addition, the Hastings Close proposal has not yet moved forward because the land owner and MHDC are still in consultation. Dist. Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams explained the philosophy behind the low-cost housing concept whereby the purchaser and the housing association become joint owners, with an agreed proportion of ownership; the target housing cost being £81,000. The Chairman opened the Parish Council Meeting.

#### Communication

The Clerk was asked to prepare a list of duties for each councillor and circulate for comments.

#### Financial Regulations

It was resolved that the financial regulations, already circulated, should be adopted by this parish council.

#### District Councillor's Report

District Cllr Mrs. B. Williams had already reported during Democratic Period.

#### County Councillor's Report:

County Cllr. Mr. A. Davies said that the County Council was concerned that waste recycling seemed to be stalling in certain

Districts, but Malvern Hills is going well and we should all give our support because land fill areas are now scarce. Worcestershire CC has had its "OFSTED" inspection and has been declared "good" - they were only two points short of "excellent". He offered congratulations to The Chantry High School for their excellent results in GCSEs.

Ankerdine Hill (B 4197): a survey is being undertaken to study the geology which may take up to 6 months. A decision on the status of the road may be taken after this.

Concurring with PC Hood, C. Cllr Mr. A. Davies said that the latest figure showed Martley to be a low-crime area.

#### Correspondence

Included: Parish Lengthman Scheme equipment and agreement.; WCC FP 10 diversion order; Mr. Martin Curren ref. Bell ropes.; WCC Planning permission for Martley Primary School –Granted.; Vital Villages additional grant forms for display cabinets (£296.12).; WCC Parish Paths Scheme Agreement, signed.; WCC FP 12 & 13 Diversion order and FP 89 creation order (Penny Hill).; Sir Michael Spicer, surgeries Pershore, Upton & Malvern.; FWAG Shooting & Conservation.; WCC Highways ref. junction Mortlake

Drive and Footway outside Memorial Hall; Vital Villages e-mail correspondence ref. Library funding.; Hallmarks: Reply to copy survey; G. Herbert Banks: Reply to copy of survey.; Office of The Deputy Prime Minister: 1 Consultations on Draft code of conduct for local govt. employees. 2. Review of restrictions on the political activities of local govt. employees and pay of political assistants. Needs a response by 19th<sup>Nov</sup>; MHDC Have your say on the next phase of recycling.; Central Networks ref: land adj. to substation St. Peters Drive their reply; MHDC Draft licensing policy for consultation. Reply before 31 Oct.; CPRE AGM 2 Oct Talbot Hotel.

### Planning

Applications Received: 04/01273/FUL Bank House Witley Rd. extns. to office and erection of garage/store (JS). Returned, comments ref. screening and safety barriers. 04/01422/FUL 1 Brickyard Cottage Castle Hill (DC)

Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn: None. Other issues: 04/00323/FUL Report on variation to the car park The Crown: copy plan from architect and comments from MHDC Planning.

### Finance

The Clerk has received his annual

appraisal. There were 11 cheques totalling £1034.17 for agreement and signature.

### Parish Paths Warden Report:

Mr. Nicklin had given his apologies so the Clerk gave a short resume of the recent work, which included the installation of two bridleway gates and much clearance.

### Tithe Map Project

The Parish Council supports the project and would be prepared to give a small start up grant; the Clerk to negotiate with Mr. Nicklin.

### Road Junction B4197/B4204 Centre of Village

Cllr. Mr. G. Coomby-Jones presented a series of sketch plans showing proposals. C. Cllr Mr. A. Davies advised that a history of accidents would assist any case for expenditure on this junction. It was agreed to continue this subject on the agenda for the next meeting.

### Waste Bins

Cllr. Mr. N. Stammers has obtained a price of £125.00 per bin for the replacement of all of the liners. Further prices are to be sought.

### Commemorative Seat

An offer has been made to provide a seat in memory of Mrs. Gina Walford. The Parish Council supports this. The location is to be agreed.

## Urgent Decisions since last meeting

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended the Northern Area Planning meeting at Malvern. Also both had visited The Crown car park to view the apparent deviation of work from the approved plan.

Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear reported that the work at Heaton House is now completed. Also the pot hole at junction of Hillside and Horn Lane has still not been repaired.

Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh reported that the bulkhead light fitting at Heaton House allows excessive light to be expressed in all directions; the Clerk to investigate and write to Planning. The ground covering of the children's playground has dangerous splinters. Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor to investigate although the specification did comply to the correct standard. The Clerk reported that the waste bin on this playground had been vandalised and is in a dangerous state.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Monday 4 October 2004 at 8 p.m.

*Tom Pearsall, Clerk*  
01886 888256

*The cover photo shows Jack and Nellie Bradley and friends enjoying tea at the St Peter's Autumn Fayre*

## *Martley & District Horticultural Society*

Society members were very fortunate to have a lovely summer day for their twenty-eighth Annual Show. This year there were 57 exhibitors and 421 entries – 102 entries up on last year. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the Show such a success.

Award winners were as follows:

R Lloyd Gibbons Open Challenge Cup for the best exhibit in the show – E Charko.

Messrs Landale & Son Challenge Cup for the exhibitor gaining most points in the vegetable section – Harry Banner.

FW Morris Challenge Cup for the exhibitor gaining most points in the flower section – Harry Banner.

Ted Whelan Memorial Trophy for the exhibitor gaining most points in the floral art section – Julie Jeffries.

Trophy & Token of £5 to be awarded to the child, 6 yrs and under gaining most points in the children's section – Matthew McHugh.

Trophy & Token of £5 to be awarded to the child 11 yrs and under gaining most points in the children's section – Catherine McHugh.

TW Sanders Trophy for the

exhibitor gaining most points in the fruit section – Harry Banner.

Shield to be awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points in the cookery section – Julie Jeffries.

Charlie Amos Memorial Trophy for the best onions – Harry Banner.

Wilf Hill Memorial Trophy for the best fuchsia – Ron Jones.

Society Cup for the member gaining most points overall – Julie Jeffries..

John Clark Memorial Cup for the best tomatoes – Brian Draper.

C & H Barnard Trophy for the best roses – Melanie Williams.

Wendy Stinton Memorial Shield for the best flowering pot plant – Harry Banner.

Banksian Medal for the exhibitor gaining most prize money – Julie Jeffries.

Jack Millward Memorial Trophy for three gladioli – Harry Banner.

Trophy for the exhibitor gaining most points in the preserves section – Patricia Turner.

Smallholder Medal for the best exhibit in the vegetable section – Ron Jones.

Tina Steele Trophy for the best poem – Patricia Turner.

### Next Meeting

At the meeting on Thursday 28 October, 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall, the speaker will be Dr Tony Hughes. His subject will be

“British Wild Orchids”. During the autumn and winter months, meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall. Also see details in The Villager. New members most welcome.

*Nellie Bradley*

### ***Tombola at the Martley Show***

Many thanks to everyone who gave prizes and then came along and bought tickets. We raised nearly £500, a bit down on last year but magnificent nevertheless. A special thank you to the collectors and everyone who helped on the day for all their hard work.

*Pam Minchin*

### ***Welcome***

Welcome and best wishes to Richard Coghlan and Sarah Webb who have come from Worcester to live at Snowdrop Cottage, New Town, Martley.



## ***Martley Ramblers***

**Sunday 10 October  
2pm Church Car Park**

This month we shall be following Pam Bowers around the Stourport area via canal, river, nature reserve and golf course. It sounds very varied and interesting. Cars will leave the church car park at 2pm sharp to begin the walk at



Blackstone Country Park. Attendance has been low over the past month or so but could not be helped with holidays, and the humid and wet weather.

This is the penultimate walk of the 2004 season and please remember, the November walk will be on the first Sunday of the month to avoid clashing with Remembrance Sunday commemoration.

*Kate King*



***Martley WI***

**Wednesday 13 October  
7.30pm Memorial Hall**

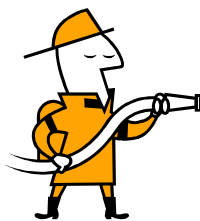
Those of us who went to Glazy Days had a most enjoyable evening painting, chatting and supping.

Most of the masterpieces we produced were to be seen on the WI stall at the Horticultural Show.



Many thanks to Margaret Lloyd James for organising the outing. Speaking of the Show, members were very generous and the lovely assortment of cakes, pies and produce for sale raised over £100 for funds after donations had been made to the Horticultural Show committee. Joy Snow did a grand job with the competition "Guessing the weight of the cake" made by Helen Coombey-Jones. Tina Steel was spot on and we hope she enjoyed the cake. With the cake money and spare cash donations from the public, about £40 will be going to the Associated Christian Women of the World "Water for All" project for less privileged countries. Thanks to all the members who contributed in any way.

The speaker this month will be Sub-Officer Barry Sutcliffe, teaching us about Fire Safety. The competition for the Millennium Plate will be a birthday card in any medium, designed



by a member. Don't forget the November meeting is our AGM. Think about what you can do to keep our WI thriving, lively and friendly.

*Kate King*

### ***Chantry High School News***

The school summer holidays are over and a new term begins. A number of social events are being arranged and 'The Friends of the Chantry High School' are looking forward to your support of them. Remember the more support we get from parents, grandparents and the community the more money we raise to support the pupils in extra-curricula activities and projects. Details of these events will appear in local parish magazines and newsletters, the school newsletter and on noticeboards near you.

The next three meetings of 'The Friends' will be in the Staff Room at the school, starting at 8pm. The dates are Thursday 7 October (to include AGM), Thursday 4 November, Thursday 2 December (mince pies etc.).

We would be very pleased to see parents of the new Year 7s at the October meeting, so please come along and meet us.

*IW*

### ***Millennium Green News.***

Those passing by the Millennium Green will have seen the new noticeboard, which was (hopefully) installed during September, courtesy of the footpath group. It was made by Richard Britton, and houses space for notices and information behind a weatherproof screen. The board will contain information about the development of the Millennium Green and a regularly-updated section pointing out interesting species of wildlife seen on and around the Green at different times during the year. Forthcoming events, such as volunteer working parties and the Millennium Green AGM, will be advertised on the noticeboard, as well as information about future developments of the Green designed to enhance its wildlife value and diversity.

*Ian Pennell, Management Committee*





## THE CHANTRY HIGH SCHOOL, MARTLEY

We wish to appoint a reliable and responsible person to be Clerk to the Governors. You will be required to:

- Attend meetings of the Board of Governors and, where possible, its Committees.
- Liaise with the Chairman, the Headteacher and the School Office to prepare and distribute agendas and minutes.
- Deal with all correspondence relating to the Governors.
- Help to produce the Annual Report to Parents.

Five main Board Meetings and 18 Committee Meetings per year, mainly evenings or after school. IT skills essential. Training available. £8.67-£9.66 per hour (Clerk to the Governors Range 3, depending on qualifications and experience. Job evaluation and pay award pending.)

Enquiries/forms: Telephone the school on 01886 887100 or e-mail [head@chantry.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:head@chantry.worcs.sch.uk)

**Deadline: 1 October 2004**

### *Knightswick and District Trefoil Guild*

Our meeting was held at the home of Geraldine where we had our annual Waffle Party. The rain held off for a few hours and we were able to enjoy a very pleasant afternoon in the garden.

*Geraldine Cooper*



*The Waffle Party*

## ***Barking Mad in Martley***

If someone were to apply for planning permission to open a boarding kennels in the area around St Peters Drive/Nash Close/Hastings Close, there would be a storm of protest from residents. Who would seriously invite the nuisance of barking dogs in a residential area ?

Yet this situation already exists. There is now a high concentration of dogs in the households in this area and many of them are left to bark at will. This is unsociable and guaranteed to create bad feeling amongst the neighbours.

As a dog owner, your household routine might include letting your dog out at midnight when you go to bed and again at 6am when you get up, but it will not make you popular with the people around you if the dog barks its head off when shut out. This is especially bad at weekends when people are trying to sleep in.

If you have a dog that barks, avoid the situations that make it bark. When you go out, if you leave your dog in the garden, it is guaranteed to bark at the least thing until you return home. Hell for your neighbours if that happens to be three or four hours later.

The dogs that bark most are lonely,

insecure or badly trained. Ensuring none of these three occurs is the responsibility of a good and considerate dog owner. So please, if you are the owner of a barking dog, don't ignore it.

*Fed up Non-Dog-Owner'*



## ***This Month in Martley 100 Years Ago***

October

This month in Martley, 100 years ago, the Parish Council met at The Laurels (behind The Chandlery) instead of the boardroom of the Workhouse as usual. Seven councillors and clerk were present. The minutes of the last meeting in July were agreed and signed. There was no other business, so the meeting adjourned until the next in January 1905!

*AB*



# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

**WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS**

## ***Church Flowers***

3 October – 2nd week of  
Harvest Decorations

10 October – Mrs P Webb

17 October – Mrs M Barber

24 October – Mrs M Barber

31 October – Vacant

## ***Ladies Fellowship***

This month's meeting is at 2.30pm  
in the Memorial Hall, speaker from  
the Leprosy Mission.

## ***Wichenford Harvest Supper***

This event will take place in the  
Memorial Hall on Saturday 2  
October at 7.30 for 8pm.

This is an enjoyable village  
occasion, so do join us. For tickets  
and details, please phone Mrs Janet  
Andrew on 01886-888303 or Mrs  
Pam Webb on 01886-888325.

## ***Wichenford Village Fete***

Our record-breaking fete raised  
£3,300, which was a wonderful  
result and pleasing for all those



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

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who worked so hard to make it a  
success. It has been decided to  
allocate the profit as follows:  
Church of St Laurence £1,350,  
Memorial Hall £1,350, Martley &  
District Pre-School £250,  
Millennium Green £150, Nursing  
Association £150, Nora Parsons  
Day Centre £50, Villager Magazine  
£50 and Ladies Fellowship Group  
£50.

We were very lucky to have such  
good weather for the fete that  
proved to be a most enjoyable  
event. Elizabeth Pearce began the  
Village Fete because she felt that as  
the village had no school, post  
office or shop, it needed an event  
that would unite all parishioners in  
a happy social occasion.

## ***Wichenford 100 Club***

August winner J Hardy. No. 213.  
£112

## ***Millennium Green***

### **Tidying & Inspection Rota**

October: Vic Reed.

### **The Wichenford Millennium Green Trust**

The outgoing Trustees would like to thank the following people for their continuing support of the Trust:

Richard Hawkin – for preparing the accounts.

Mick Fellowes – for the maintenance of the Green.

Will Hylan – for the creation of the 100 Club and their generous donation.

The Trustees would like to thank all those who support the 100 Club and have made such a success of the venture.



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

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes. An ordinary meeting of the parish council was held on Monday 9 August 2004 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford. Councillor Britten-Long chaired the meeting.

### **Democratic Half Hour/ Public Question Time**

Several letters were received from parishioners and discussed. Two were concerning the volume and speed of traffic along Barbers Lane and the damage being done to the verges by the width of vehicles using the lane, particularly farm machinery. It was also reported that the litter bins in the parish are not being emptied. Complaints regarding the double garage and store at 4 Kenswick Manor were received and commented on.

### **Reports**

District and County Councillor Reports: The District Councillor did not attend and no report was given. County Councillor Hickling reported that following the Corporate Performance Assessment inspection in June, the Audit Commission found that the council had worked hard to tackle weaknesses since 2002.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Refuse Lorries:**

Several letters have been written to MHDC explaining our frustration that this matter has still not been resolved. A meeting was held on 21 July with the operations manager who agreed that the small caged vehicle could collect from the two properties at Highfields. Over the next six months MHDC

will be re-examining the whole utilisation of collection vehicles and it is hoped that the concerns of both the parishes of Martley and Wichenford will be taken into account. We are meeting with the Highways Department on 16 August to suggest the possibility of getting a weight/width restriction on Barbers Lane.

Lengthsman Scheme:

Only one application has been received for the Parish lengthsman position. The parish council has interviewed the applicant and is waiting for some final queries to be sorted.

Start-up Grant:

A statement of problems reported in Wichenford has been given to the footpath wardens who will slowly work through them. They have contacted the countryside agency with a programme of jobs and are waiting for the grant to be deposited into the account.

Planning

Applications received for comment since the last meeting: internal alterations to provide second floor bedroom and bathroom at Woodpeckers, Kedges Farm. The parish council has no objections to this proposal.

Proposed double garage and store at No 4 Kenswick Manor. The parish council has no objection to

this application providing that the roof height on the application is accepted. Proposed two-storey extension and repositioned conservatory at "Sedalia" Wichenford. The parish council has no objections to this proposal.

Decisions made by MHDC: domestic extension to bungalow at 4 Abingdon Bungalow has been refused.

Finance

The income and expenditure account were studied and agreed by the council. The Council approved payments totalling £848.16.

The clerk was asked to look into the possibility of a grant from the Community Grant Scheme for a hedge laying course.

Highways

Ankerdine Hill road closure from 19 – 23 August. Footpath 1 Kenswick public path diversion order.

Correspondence

Letters were received and discussed from the Nora Parsons Day Centre and the Memorial Hall Management Committee. Both of these organisations wrote to inform the parish council of their intention to use the Community Punishment Order workforce to do necessary work in the village hall and the day centre. They will also be used to

redecorate the Vestry and Bell tower in the church.

The Criminal Justice and Police Act - Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places will be passed around for all councillors to comment on.

#### Date and Venue of Next Meetings

27 September 2004 at 7.30pm

8 November 2004 at 7.30 pm

13 December 2004 at 7.30pm

24 January 2005 at 7.30pm

All in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

*Shirley Sanders Clerk to the Council  
(01886 888302)*

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### ***Martley Crown Meadow***

There was uproar at the Parish Council meeting in September when parishioners asked the PC committee why The Crown developers had been allowed to dig up The Crown meadow after the planning permission granted had specifically safeguarded it.

The Chair replied that he and the Clerk to PC had approached the contractors the previous Friday and they produced a set of modified plans (but not stamped by MHDC), dated 7th August 2004 (a Saturday). These showed areas of The Crown meadow being used for the new car park. It was pointed out by Chair and Clerk to PC that areas

had been dug up that were not even covered by the modified plans.

Councillor Williams interjected that she had not been informed about any modified plans.

It was agreed that this was a disgraceful way to treat the PC and Local Councillor - what was the point of having a local democracy if the District Council was able to change agreed plans and not consult them (in breach of their supposed adherence to "Best Practice").

Please make your views known to the Parish Council to help strengthen their hand when dealing with this matter.

*This resume written by the webmaster who attended the meeting and is produced in good faith. Any errors of fact should be reported to him.*

*webmaster@martley.org.uk*

(See [martley.org.uk](http://martley.org.uk) for latest news—*Editor*)

### ***Don't Give Up the Day Job***

*Your Editor works as a 6<sup>th</sup> Form teacher during the day. In the first of an occasional writing, she comments on life at work...*

The beginning of a new term and a new academic year is a funny time. Furious amounts of activity occur and yet students put in only

occasional appearances – no wait, that is normal for students. “Admin” happens. Smoke rises from an over-worked photocopier. One day I had four meetings, one after another. Since I wasn’t in charge of any of them, I didn’t have to do any thinking all day! Students pop in and out to sign things, be given pieces of paper and have their photos taken, getting moved in large herds to all corners of the building where these various activities take place. Have all of them come back yet?

Teachers have returned with New Hair – re-styled and with blonde or golden highlights and even purple streaks in one case. This is just the older ones, who should be worrying about their reckonable



years of service for pension purposes and wondering about moving to somewhere warmer, and not trying to

out-do the students. Maybe it’s just a way of trying to relate?

At least the staff-room hasn’t shrunk. One year we came back to find that a large chunk of the staff-room had become another room and people’s lockers (as rare as hen’s teeth) had become inaccessible.

*Michelle Higgins*

## *Catwords*

*Part 1. Abyssinian Utterances, & Flashbacks to a previous incarnation.*

I have been asked me to write a few words on the subject of cats. I’m sure mine could write their own, but I think it could be too raunchy, or violent for readers of *The Villager*, and probably downright libellous about their humans, so perhaps it’s just as well they can’t! (though Spider attempts to hone her IT skills every time I use the computer, walking up and down the keyboardajhdbvqwku-miaawww ... practising deleting, re-formatting, and other amazing feline IT feats!)

As I write, Minky is hanging out of the study window, peering at, and pulling horrible faces at, Esti, The Unsuspecting Abyssinian (do I sense a children’s book coming on here?). Esti has taken up ownership of the front garden. Minky is appalled by the way her humans just allowed this THING to come here in the first place and worse, even STAY!!! Rumour has it that we actually FEED it!

We acquired ‘the Abyssinian’ in a rather peculiar way, I suppose. My Aunt died, and left Esti (not my choice of name for such an exotic

breed) to me in her will. She also came with a modest pension, being of mature years. When she arrived, she was pathetically nervous and quiet but soon found her voice, yowling and uttering deep, terrible curses in Abyssinian when vexed. She has also taken a shine to the man of the household, and is highly possessive. All I (the other woman) get from her are hisses and insults.



She now occupies ‘Sir’s den’ where they can be heard engaging in deep, and probably meaningful, conversations over a glass of cider. In fact ‘Sir’ is becoming quite fluent in Abyssinian. There is definitely something ‘going on’ there! Some might say that ‘Sir’ is going a little soft in the brain department. Is it love? Is it the cider? Recently he has even been seen down at the gym, which is highly suspicious behaviour if you ask me! She has totally attached herself to him, which my girls consider very demeaning, but just what you’d expect from A FOREIGN FLOOZIE LIKE THAT! (Yes, they are racist as well. I’m ashamed to admit that my girls are definitely not politically correct). Esti has beautiful, fine pale apricot fur, and is

immaculately turned out. By contrast, my girls tend to look fairly scruffy, which is the result of various forays into the undergrowth after hapless rodents and excursions into the uncharted depths of ‘Sir’s’ shed, from which they emerge either festooned by cobwebs, or pieces of vegetation. Very messy, and not something your average Aby’ likes to contemplate. As you can see, they don’t see eye to eye. But their paths never seem to cross, with an invisible ‘no cat’s land’ between the two rival factions. So far.

Regarding the Egyptian connection, I believe Abyssinian cats can be traced back thousands of years to Ancient Egypt, being worshipped there and portrayed on murals and in statuettes all over the area. Whether they originated in Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) is open to debate. Whose in this family was the previous incarnation as an Egyptian priestess I shall leave to guesswork.

AH







Why not chase away those autumn blues  
And join us with your dancing shoes



A night of 'barn dancing' and fun for all  
In aid of Martley Village Hall

Friday 15th October is the date

So get your tickets early, before its too late

\*\*\*\*\*



Music by 'Wuster Waites' with Eve Evans

Tickets - £6.00 to include supper

The bar will be open and we will also be holding a raffle

All profits from the evening will go to Martley Village Hall

Tickets will be on sale at the Central Stores and Martley

Post Office from 1 October or from :

Neil & Eileen Stammers - 01886 888513

e-mail : neil.stammers@btinternet.com

George & Helen Coombey-Jones - 01886 888294

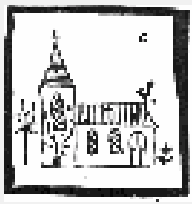


### *St Peters Autumn Fayre*

Saturday 11 September dawned cold and windy but it was the day for the St Peters Autumn Fayre, so later the sun came out and although the weather continued to remind us from time-to-time that hurricane Ivan was pounding the West Indies, hearty souls headed for The Rectory Field in Martley. There they were greeted by the Rector,

Revd David Sherwin, and the welcome sight of Autumn produce, games and teas, jumble and jam, vintage cars, raffles and a tombola. The fayre was held as part of the Heritage Weekend Celebrations. The Church Tower was also open for visitors to ascend and admire the view—an effort well worth making.

*MH*



# Church Words

**The Rectory 01886 888664**

Religion is hardly out of the media these days, yet so often it is mentioned for the wrong reasons. We see religious extremism in its various forms exhibited throughout the world, often with horrendous consequences. Yet is it wrong to be religious? To follow a particular creed and allow it to affect our lives? As a Christian, I know only too well the effects of Christian extremism over the centuries and the legacy we are left with today. Yet as some would say, should we 'Do away with religion', because nothing good can come of it?

I can only speak of Christianity, and have to say that I do not believe this to be true. I used to say that I was not a religious person, but a person who follows Christ, a Christian! I know that is no answer to our critics but if I am to understand my religion truly I must constantly refer to its founder, and follow him. He called upon us to 'Love God, and Love our neighbour as we Love ourselves', 'True religion' James would say, 'is to care for orphans and widow.....' Our Christian religion calls us to indeed treat others with the same love and respect we expect, this can only be fully realised as we love God!

If nothing good can come out of

religion then let us consider, hospitals, schools, Trade Unions, abolition of slavery, prison reform, children's homes I could go on, all influenced by religious people, Christians of devout faith. We know Christians are not perfect, yet through our love for God, our religion, we seek to serve others, this surely must be a good thing?

## Memorial Service

The Memorial Service this year will be held on Sunday 31 October 3.00pm at St Peter's Martley to remember those of our loved ones who have died.. The service is for anyone who has suffered a bereavement whether family or friend, to give us chance to remember them, give thanks for their lives and to find comfort for ourselves. Those who have been bereaved during the last 12 months in the Benefice of Martley, Wichenford, Broadwas, Knightwick or Cotheridge should be informed but if you are unsure or wish someone to be included before this time or from somewhere else please let us know. Rev David Sherwin 01886 888664.

## Services for October

<b>3 Oct</b>	
Wichenford	9.30am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Family Harvest Worship
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Knightwick	8am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	6.30pm Harvest Festival
<b>10 Oct</b>	
Wichenford	10.0am Family Worship
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	6.30pm Harvest Festival
Cotheridge	8am Holy Communion
<b>17 Oct</b>	
Wichenford	6.30pm Evensong
Martley	8am Holy Communion; 11am Morning Worship
Broadwas	11am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	9am Matins
Knightwick	3pm Harvest Festival
<b>24 Oct</b>	
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
Broadwas	8am Holy Communion; 11am Family Worship
<b>31 October</b>	
Martley	3pm Benefice Memorial Service
Wichenford	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion

## In the Kitchen



### Pear and Ginger Chutney

1kg/2lbs firm pears, peeled, cored and chopped

3 large onions, chopped

75g/3oz raisins

2 tablespoons fresh root ginger, finely chopped

15g/6oz soft dark brown sugar

300ml/1pt vinegar

½ teaspoon salt

1 cinnamon stick

Waxed disks.

*Makes about 1.5kg/3lbs*

1. Put all the ingredients in a large, heavy pan and bring slowly to the boil, stirring occasionally.
2. Simmer, uncovered, for about 1 hour, checking that the chutney does not burn on the base of the pan.
3. Warm some jars, with airtight lids. Spoon the hot chutney into the jars and top each jar with a waxed disk, waxed side down. Label the jars and leave to cool.

The chutney will be ready to eat after 2-3 weeks and will keep, unopened, up to 6 months.

# In the Garden



## Garden Tips for October

Winter is not very far away, frosts can occur this month. Time to plant bulbs. Amaryllis should be planted against a south-facing wall, where the soil is well drained.

Clear away summer bedding plants, taking care to clean up all fallen leaves of roses. These should be burnt in order to help control blackspot, the spores of which will survive the winter.

Gladioli, begonias and dahlia tubers should be lifted and stored. Plant sweet peas for early blooms and over-winter under cold glass. This is a good month to plant all species of climbing plants.

Green tomatoes can be picked and stored indoors to ripen. Support

strong-growing brassica plants with canes. Sow crops of hardy peas and broad beans. Plant out Japanese onion



sets. Winter lettuce can be sown and pricked out into modules ready to plant out under protection. Sow cauliflower seed; when large enough to prick out, plant into 3" pots and over-winter under cold glass ready to plant out in April. Calabrese can be grown in the same way.



Most crops will have been harvested and attention must be paid to storage of these, particularly to carrots and red beet. These store well in dry sand.

*Jack Bradley*



## **Correction**

*If you have tried unsuccessfully to contact The Network, who collect and recycle electrical appliances, their phone number is actually 01562 513399.*

*Editor*

## *Village Contacts*



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