

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 15 No. 5

October 2005

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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

2nd Sunday in the month:

Walking Not Working with the Path-or-Nones. Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help survey 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)

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 Sport Martley

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

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

Other events:

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

See Church Words for details of services

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

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

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



Martley Show 2005

Well – they did it again – the organisers put on a cracking show. There was face painting and a bouncy castle for the youngsters, a fun run and tractor pulling for the energetic, a tombola for those with a lucky streak and much more. The Horticultural Society tent contained the marvels we have come to expect of Martley people – vegetables to be proud of, plants and flower arrangements, ingenious animals created by our children (the sheep with cauliflower wool was particularly noteworthy) and baking to make the mouth water. Isn't it strange how the



Those magnificent men: the Red Barrows (photo by M Higgins)

same recipes can produce such different looking, but equally tempting results? Music, and entertainment, was provided by the Teme Valley line dancers, a fairground organ showing that these instruments are not relics of the Victorian age by playing songs by Abba, and local band Nomad.

But for me the highlight of the show were the Red Barrows, who performed feats of “formation flying” with their, well, red barrows. Drilled and rehearsed to perform as well as their aviator counterparts the Red Arrows, the show was scripted, choreographed and performed by The Path-or-Nones, who usually use the red barrows to assist their more mundane activities of keeping Martley's footpaths safe. Commentary on the “aerial” manoeuvres was provided by Caspar Tiarks who perfectly captured the atmosphere of First World War flying aces, complete with handlebar moustache, to complement the red overalls and flying white scarves of the performers.

Well done everyone who organised and took part in Martley Show 2005 – chalk up another success.

Michelle Higgins

Martley & District Horticultural Show and Fete

On a typical summer's day, a typical village fete. After all the hard work put in by committee members over the past months, and willing volunteers on the day, I would like to thank everyone involved for making this occasion memorable. We were blessed with good weather so visitors were able to participate and enjoy the various attractions provided. The aim of the committee is to provide a fun day out for villagers and visitors alike and to raise money for charitable purposes. I hope we achieved our aims. The monies raised will be advised at a later date by our treasurer, Mr Neil Stammers. To those of you who gave us your support, many, many thanks. We hope you enjoyed the day. Finally my wholehearted admiration to those of you who had the stamina to stay behind and help dismantle, and restore, the field to pristine condition.

Ray E.....

Martley & District Horticultural Society

The 29th Annual Show was a great success. There were 61 exhibitors and 430 entries – nine entries up on last year. The show tent was full of excellent exhibits and the competition was very keen, with many fine examples of vegetables and flowers on display. The wine making and cooking sections were well represented with the men-

folk particularly successful in showing their ability to use kitchen utensils. Are times changing ladies? Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the show such a success.

Horticultural society raffle

A child's soft toy was not claimed at the show. Are you the holder of Ticket No 441 pink, Serial number AY8FPZAL? If so, please telephone 01886-888333.

Next meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 27 October at 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall, The speaker will be Reg Moule of BBC Hereford and Worcester, his subject: "What's wrong with me plants"? Challenge Reg with your plant problems. New members most welcome.

Nellie Bradley

Martley WI – Wednesday 12 October 7.30pm, Sport Martley

After a somewhat hectic summer of activities and fund raising, we are sitting back this month to listen to John Walton talking about the Himalayas. It is probably too late to consider climbing them as a contribution to the "Stepping Out" challenge in this WI 90th birthday year, thank goodness. The competition is for a tablemat in any medium. The winner will hold the

Millennium Plate for a year and have their name inscribed thereon. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome to give us a go. 7.30pm Sport Martley second Wednesday in the month.

Kate King

Martley Ramblers – 2pm 9 October, Church car park

Please note we meet on the second Sunday of the month – not the third as previously stated in the Villager “Regular events in Martley” section.

This month we shall leave for Malvern to walk around the Malvern Valley. This will obviously be somewhat different from walking along the hilltops. Pam and Jean will be leading. Colin Hill led recently around “Hill Country” and we found yet more locations unknown to us in the Alfrick and Brockamin areas. If anyone has not been to Hayley Dingle, seen the river Teme from Red Cliff or wandered along the dismantled railway line, listening for the whistle of a ghostly train, then what a missed opportunity.

Kate King



VJ reminiscence

Alan Boon spent some of the Second World War in the Far East. This month he recalls the events surrounding VJ Day, 1945.

I am writing this in August – a few days after the rather muted celebrations. I was in Bangalore when the news came through with my unit, the 102 Field General Hospital. I think our celebrations were fairly muted, for we had no expectations of an early return home. We had been pulled out of Normandy a few months earlier, having been exceptionally busy, but where my only contact with the Germans had been when we had several hundred of them as casualties after the battle of the Falaise Gap. As a radiographer I only had to order them to “keep quite still”.

About October 1945 I was posted to Singapore to be part of the crew of a 4,000 ton hospital ship, the mv Maetsuyker, for which the Americans had no further use. I found out a few years ago from the Netherlands Maritime Museum that she had been used to accompany the Seventh Fleet under Vice Admiral Kinkaid on its various battles, notably the Philippines Campaign.

We used the ship to bring ex-POWs and the sick (mostly Indian) from Rangoon, Saigon and Singapore to our base in Madras. (To reach Rangoon and Saigon was a 10 to 12 hour up river cruise.) We only had one severe South Seas storm – several hours

tossed about like a cork – but we twice had to stop to carry out a burial at sea. About March '46 our job was finished and we were put ashore to a transit camp in Singapore. On my second day there, as a corporal, I was given a detail of a dozen Japanese prisoners to take to clean up a few streets – my only contact with the eastern enemy. I had never given orders before, except such as “take a deep breath and hold it”. The next day I searched around for the nearest hospital where I was welcomed with open arms as they only had one radiographer, and he was due for leave back in India. I had posted myself! The hospital, then being run by the 69th Indian General Hospital, is still operating today. It had been, and still is, I think, ‘The Princess Alexandra Hospital’! Should any reader ever visit Singapore, I would be delighted to have one or two photographs of how it looks now.

14274102 Ex Cpl A L Boon, RAMC

Footnote

The MV Maetsuyker was launched in Amsterdam in 1937, and after several changes of name and owner was scrapped in 1974.

Thank you

Jack & Nellie Bradley celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 4 August. They wish to thank all their relatives and friends for the good wishes and gifts they received. Our thanks to the village organisations who contributed

towards the excellent garden seat they presented us with, the use of which we hope to enjoy for many more years to come.

Flt Lt Richard Pargeter

Heartiest congratulations to Flt Lt Richard Pargeter of Bush Farm, Wichenford who on 19 August graduated from RAF Valley in Anglesey at the end of Advanced Fast Jet Training, an intense six-month course, flying the Hawk. During the graduation he flew in a close formation “Nine Ship” over RAF Valley, watched by family and friends. A “Nine Ship” is made up of Hawks flying in a diamond formation at 400 mph, each plane just 10ft apart. In the evening at the graduation dinner, he was awarded all three of the flying prizes, including the coveted Silver Trophy awarded to the best pilot overall. He now goes on to fly with NATO forces in Canada, where he will complete his weapons training before joining a front-line fast jet squadron. Our very best wishes go with him.



This month in Martley, 100 years ago

19 October 1905 – Six members of the Parish Council met in the Board Room of the Unicorn only to find there was ‘no other business to be transacted other than signing the minutes of the July meeting’. School re-opened on 9 October after the harvest holidays, with a new block floor and the provision of dual desks – a great improvement!

21 November 1905 – Rev J P Hastings visited to inspect the boys’ register and found 48 present; wrote ‘frosty weather’. Two days later, Mr Humpherson reported “an unfortunate accident happened during the dinner hour. Edward A--- had the misfortune to fracture his right thigh while playing with a hand cart”. (Note: He returned to school on 19 March 1906 after an absence of 15 weeks!)

11 December 1905 – Four boys who arrived for afternoon school after the registers were closed (1.50pm) were refused admission. School closed on the 20th for the Christmas Holidays – two weeks.

ALB

Celebrations as building begins on new St Richard's Hospice

Building work has started on the new £5.25m St Richard's Hospice – marking a historic moment in 21 years of

care by the charity.

The Building Beds Together campaign has won huge support raising £4.85m and leaving just £400,000 to raise to finish and equip the new hospice, which will include all the current free patient services plus 15 urgently-needed specialist beds. The new hospice is being built close to County Hall in Worcester.

Malvern-based building company Speller Metcalfe has been awarded the contract and expects the new hospice to open its doors to patients from the autumn next year.

“It's a wonderful moment to see the building project begin,” said Jeannie Young, chairman of St Richard's governors. “It is a credit to all the enthusiasm and determination shown by many people over the years to make this new hospice a reality.”

She added: “The specialist hospice beds are so desperately needed by our patients. I'm sure that they and their families join all the hospice staff and appeal team in thanking everyone who has made this new hospice possible.

“It will make an enormous difference to the quality of life for many patients across the whole of South Worcestershire. Now we have to keep up the momentum and ask the community to help raise the £400,000 still remaining and also the funds we need to run the new hospice once it is open.”

The hospice started with just a handful of patients but has grown annually to care and support more than 1,500 patients and bereaved families bringing

the total to nearly 8,000 since the hospice was formed.

It is expected that around 350 patients a year will be cared for in the new bedded-unit, some of whom may spend their final days there. In many cases patients will go into a hospice bed for short stays to manage symptoms or for therapies and psychological support. Hundreds more will also benefit from all the other hospice services including a Day Hospice; Home Care Team; Bereavement, Social Work, Family Therapy and Counselling Service, 24-hour on-call advice line and The Snowdrop Group for young women who have been touched by cancer.

St Richard's is based at Rose Hill, Worcester and has 67 staff and 600 volunteers, many of whom receive special training to care for patients with cancer and other life threatening illness. In the new hospice, the nurse to patient ratio will be 2:1 and staff numbers are set to increase to more than 100.

To make a donation please visit any of the 10 St Richard's Hospice shops or call the Appeal hotline 01905 727444, sponsored by Leadline.

If anyone would like to hold an event or help the hospice in any way then please contact the Fundraising Department on 01905763963 or visit:

www.strichards.org.uk.

*Helen Griffie, St Richard's Hospice
Communications Manager
tel:01905 763963*

Caring about the homeless in Worcester – from sceptic to devotee

I wonder how often we busy ourselves shopping in Worcester (assuming we can afford to park there these days) and pass those Big Issue sellers desperately trying to catch our attention, or give a brief glance to the guy playing his penny whistle with his faithful dog by his side.

If we are hurrying to a restaurant or the cinema in the evening we might even see a heap of clothing and cardboard boxes in a doorway with a tousled head of hair peeping out. There are many more like him or her about in the city who we never see.

These people have no home and there are many sad stories behind their plight, which lead to a downward-spiral in their lives, frequently ending with no roof, no food, no friends, no bed and no hope. In ignorance of all this, I would hurry home to the safe roof over my head, the fire in the grate and the hotpot simmering on the stove on a cold winter's evening.

So, I admit to having been one of those who tended to pass these people by for many years – mumbling to myself “why don't these people get a life and a wash rather than cadge a sandwich or a few coins off me”.

The realisation that perhaps my reaction to such people made me the person at fault came slowly. First I would drop few warm clothes into St Paul's Hostel in Worcester, then I did the

same at Maggs Day Centre. These visits became more frequent as I had the odd chat with the duty staff and began to learn just what a great job they were doing for the homeless in Worcester. Then four years ago Jane and I were busying ourselves Christmas shopping and noticed there was a coffee morning for St Pauls being held at the Guildhall. I have to admit that at that moment it was the lure of a fresh hot coffee and a homemade cake that attracted me in, rather than the appeal for St Paul's Hostel.

Volunteer group

A chat with a cheery persuasive guy manning the raffle, Derek Smith, a veteran St Paul's Hostel volunteer, clinched a deal. Within a few months I had joined the volunteer group and was officially interviewed and approved as a 'befriender' to one of the hostel residents who was about to be resettled. With hardly time to catch my breath, I found myself volunteering to start a Fund Raising Group and was subsequently asked to join the Governing Council. From sceptic to devotee had taken around 12 months.

Of course, I shall never stop learning however long I am involved, but one thing is certain, I now understand that becoming homeless can happen to the most worthy, the most respected, the most secure and the most successful among us. It is alarming how a series of seemingly minor negative circumstances can build into a major crisis in the lives of Mr or Mrs Average – I

realise just how alarmingly near it is for me or anyone to being that head sticking out from the cardboard box.

So what does St Paul's and Maggs actually do? Not time or space here to give the full and fascinating history (which is by the way full of as much laughter and elation as it is tears and sweat, and will make a most readable book one day). Well, St Paul's Hostel (near Shrub Hill Station) provides 24-hour accommodation, three meals a day, care and counselling for up to 42 homeless men and women over the age of 16. The aim is to encourage the residents to build their confidence and independence sufficient for them to be moved into resettlement premises owned by St Paul's Hostel.

Evening meals

Full-time staff are supplemented by a dedicated band of over 80 volunteers who prepare and serve evening meals, provide transport, give support to residents as befrienders, particularly when they reach the resettlement stage, and support the Hostel's Fund Raising Group.

St Paul's responsibilities also extend to assisting residents who have suffered with substance and alcohol problems, and likewise provides special supervision and resettlement accommodation away from the hostel for those in their difficult recovery stage. Maggs Day Centre, whose premises is in the old Norman Church of St Albans in Deansway, works in close liaison with St Paul's Hostel, other local

charities, the Town Council and the local community generally, even though they are essentially an independent organisation. Maggs Day Centre is, as its name implies, a day centre for homeless people, particularly those who find it difficult to acclimatise to the 24-hour accommodation and care offered to them by St Paul's Hostel.

Resettlement team

Maggs provides a warm friendly 'day home' with wash facilities, breakfast and lunch service and a continuous supply of hot drinks between seven and two o'clock every day except Friday. The full-time staff includes a resettlement team and assists every homeless person in their search for permanent employment. They too extend their care to those who are or have suffered from substance and alcohol problems.

Although I have varied interests in these two worthy charities, my principal concern is running the Fund Raising Group along with a dedicated team of volunteers. We have managed to raise over £10,000 during our first three years of activity and boast an exciting programme of events over the next year.

Our next big one is 'An evening with Henry Sandon' of BBC1 Antiques Road Show' fame on the 19 November (Please refer to the box after this article.). Please do book your tickets early – it is certain to be in big demand. Oh yes, we do need more vol-

unteers at St Paul's and Maggs. Please do contact me for more information – our motto on the Fund Raising Group is that fund raising must always be fun raising. Thanks for 'listening'.

Mike Field, Highfields, Wichenford.

An evening with Henry Sandon

World renowned porcelain and China expert as seen on BBC1 Antiques Road Show.

Saturday, November 19, 2005.

An auction of collectables, promises and small antiques with buffet supper.

The Bradbury Centre, Sansome Place, Worcester.

Tickets in advance, £12

Tickets on the door, £15

Includes the auction, reception cocktail and buffet supper.

Tickets and auction lot registration forms from:

Mike Field, 01886 888320

Dave Riley, 01905 749858

Donna King, 01905 420933

Or the Worcester Tourist Office (Guildhall).

Please join us to support our fund raising for the St Paul's Hostel for homeless resettlement project. Thank you.

Martley Parish Council

An ordinary meeting of Martley Parish Council was held on Monday 5 September 2005 at the Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr Mr. D. Cropp, chairman, Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh, Cllr. Mr. J. Slough, Cllr Mr. G. Coombey-Jones, Cllr. Mr. M. Nott, Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear, Cllr. Mrs. M. Randall..

In attendance: Mr. T. Pearsall (Clerk to The Parish Council),

11 members of the public.

Presentation of Freedom of Martley Awards:

The Chairman Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp presented awards to:

Mr. & Mrs. J. Bradley, Mr.& Mrs. D. Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. A. Boon for “many years of selfless service to this parish they shall be granted the right to pass without let of hindrance throughout the parish.”

The democratic period/public question time

The chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about parish business, the following points were raised:

The refuse collection at the layby, Hillside is not happening; the Clerk to write to MHDC.

Comments were made about litter in the parish and it was agreed to discuss with MHDC the possibility of taking over “The Litter Patrol” for the parish. The Parish Council Meeting was opened by the chairman at 8:10 pm.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllrs. N. Stammers and G. Taylor; these were accepted.

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests:

The Clerk reminded everyone of the need to declare interests and to keep their list up to date.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 8th. August 2005:

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

District Councillor’s Report:

District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams announced that the proposal to move to a single planning committee was under review following many objections. The Local Plan inspectors report is expected at the end of September.

An open forum on refuse is scheduled for 26th. September at The Foley Arms.

County Councillor’s Report:

County Councillor Mr. A. Davies read out details of correspondence concerning B 4197 Ankerdine Hill. Two Parish Councils have agreed to Highway proposals for the traffic calming.

The Local Transport Plan 2 has been submitted to Government and another round of consultations will be scheduled for this autumn.

“Word on Worcestershire” is to be circulated via local free newspapers; several councillors announced that few residents in Martley received “free newspapers”. C.Cllr. A. Davies then asked if it could be circulated via “The Villager”; he was referred to Cllr. N.

Stammers who is the advertising manager.

The Highways Partnership units are to be reduced in number, but this should not affect the working relationship with this parish council.

New road contractors have been appointed and will be starting in October.

Correspondence:

WCC PP3 grant form (signed and returned).

The Nora Parsons Day Centre revised date for AGM Mon 26th. September.

WCC Community Transport leaflets.

WCC Highways news.

Mr. D. Taylor reply to Freedom of Martley.

West Midland Regional Assembly "Speaking Out".

Email David Murray MHDC reply to our email asking for meeting on "extra possibilities" for Martley PC in the planning process.

WCC P3 letter and agreement plus grant cheque.

FWAG: Strategic use of set aside Wed 28th. Sept Walsgrave Fm. Gt. Witley.

CPRE: AGM Sat 1st. Oct Malvern.

WCC Highways Partnership: Traffic Calming Ankerdine, Mr. Carless cannot attend any meeting of this council.

Local Works: Campaign for the sustainable communities Bill.

WCC Area Democracy: Malvern Hills Spotlight meeting 21st. Sept.

WCC Worcs Minerals and Waste Development Framework- Pre- submission. Comments by 30th. Sept.

MHDC: Executive Committee 30th.

Aug.

WCC: Older people's housing care and support strategy; reply by 15th. Sept.

WCC Highways Partnership: Mr. Carless, response to letter 23 June.

West Mercia Constabulary: Reply to our letter 11th. Aug ref. charges for weighbridge.

Police Community Consultative Group: Public meeting Abberley Village Hall Wed Oct 5th. 7.30pm

Planning:

Applications received:

1. Hawkesnest Farm Broadwas: Cllr.G. Taylor, returned no comment.

2. Prop extn to Chantry School Cllr. D. Cropp.

Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn:

1. Old House Farm Horsham. Approved.

2. Penny Patch Approved.

Other issues:

Telephone call from Mr. Jennings MHDC enforcement ref. caravans Lower Hollins Farm. (Notice served to establish use.)

Finance

There were 4 cheques totalling £1,075.64 for agreement and signature Income August 05:

WCC P3 grant, £1500.00

Bank of Ireland interest £72.05

Current Bank Balance Lloyds TSB 26th Aug 05 £7,105.36

Actual position 8th. August 05
£5975.71

The acceptance of the finances was resolved.

Parish Paths Warden Report:

The Clerk read out the report which is attached as an addendum.

Urgent Decisions since last meeting:
None.

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

1. It was reported that two councillors had inspected the play area and had found it unsafe. The Clerk confirmed that it had been inspected in May 05 and was then satisfactory. The Clerk advised the meeting that he should write to The Recreation Committee and recommend closure until remedial work had been carried out; this was agreed.
2. The jetting of gullies had not been carried out on Hillside near Shingle-dale; the Clerk to follow up.
- 3 Signage on many roads is becoming obscured due to overgrowth; the Clerk to instruct the Lengthman.
4. Ragwort is a problem on verges; the Clerk to investigate .
5. An entrance has been cut through a hedge opposite Barbers; the Clerk to inspect.
6. A large shed has been erected in Badgers Close; the Clerk to discuss with Planning Enforcement.
7. Speeding is now a problem on the B4197 from Berrow Green to Martley; the Clerk to request Const. A. Hood to investigate.
8. Over hanging trees in Horn Lane beyond Rimmers Farm is still a problem; the Clerk to discuss with the Wichenford Clerk.
9. Flooding is a problem in Prickley

Green Lane; the Clerk to instruct the Lengthman.

10. Barbers Lane bridge is flooding; the Clerk to instruct the Lengthman

The next meeting is on Monday 3 October 2005 at 8 p.m.

Meeting closed at 21.50 hrs.

Addendum 1

Parish Paths Warden's Report, August 2005

The Path-or-Nones had a busy August, especially 20th and 21st.

A number attended the Martley Show, attracted by the promise of a flypast by the Red Barrows. I am sure that all who witnessed this event were not disappointed in the display of intricate wheeling and dealing. It was unfortunate that one of the team suffered a serious accident, tho' all's well that ends well. He has recovered but management have taken him off flying for a while. He is now focusing on horticultural duties, clearing nettles and brambles, and is feeling better for it.

After the events of the 20th, a good team met on 21st to tackle clearance around Penny Hill. This should now stay clear for the season, and if you have not ventured that far, do try the walk from Quarry Lane to the East of the Hill exiting to overlook Callow Farm. From there either left, back to your start or right and up on to Rodge Hill. Martley surely has in its parish some of England's finest views. No wonder www stands not for World Wide Web, but Wonderful West Worcestershire.

JSN 4th September 2005



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Wichenford Memorial Hall



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

On Friday 28 October 2005 at 7.30pm for 8pm at Wichenford Memorial Hall, come and enjoy an evening with Brian Draper MBE. He will be giving one of his illustrated and entertaining talks on Scotland. Light refreshments will be available, and a raffle will also take place. Tickets £3.50 at the door. Please bring family and friends as our earlier talks illustrated by slides given by Brian Draper were greatly enjoyed by everyone. Proceeds are to raise funds for the maintenance of the Memorial Hall.

Church Flower Rota

2 Oct B Whyatt
9 Oct Harvest decorations
16 Oct Harvest decorations
23 Oct M Fisher
30 Oct M Barber

18 Oct Ladies Fellowship meet in Memorial Hall at 2.30pm. Speaker Mr Todd from Acorns Hospice.
15 Oct Harvest Supper in Memorial Hall.

22 Oct Scalextric in Memorial Hall – two sessions: afternoon and evening, in aid of the climbing frame on the Millennium Green.

Change of service time on 3rd Sunday in winter: 16 Oct 11am Morning Prayer.

Wichenford Local Heritage Group

Project Launch Meeting

Wichenford through history/
(Historical environment of Wichenford).

Wednesday, September 28, -09-07-05
7.30pm Registration for Autumn Evening Classes.

8.00pm New Project Launch.

Outline of new project: Mervyn Mitchell.

8.15pm Project in the context of County and National Initiatives: Malcolm Atkin/Victoria Bryant.

8.30pm Pollen Analysis – its contribution to understanding the Historical Landscape: Katie Head.

8.50pm Anglo-Saxon Charter Bounds – their contribution to understanding today’s landscape: Della Hooke.

9.10pm Discussion/display of documents and maps/refreshments.

NB: There is an emphasis on community involvement underlying the allocation of grants for LHI projects. Anyone living in Wichenford or in the neighbouring parishes is therefore very welcome to this project launch meeting.

The project has been funded by the Local Heritage Initiative.

We would be delighted to see anyone who is interested at the launch.

Wichenford Local Heritage Group

What were the principle influences on the development of rural communities? How were these shaped by the landscapes in which they evolved?

This course of lectures will give particular emphasis to rural society in Worcestershire and the West Midlands from the 12th to the 19th centuries, and look at its relationship with the wider historic environment. We will examine the resources we can use to understand how our countryside was shaped, and to reconstruct past communities.

A course of 10 meetings, Wednesday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm. Commencing October 5 at the Wichenford Memorial Hall, Venn Lane, Wichenford. Do come and join us. Fees are £35 for

members and £42 for non-members. Registration is 7.30pm on September 28. Please be prompt as this is followed by a launch party.

October 5 Approaches and the types of evidence available for reconstructing local communities. Prof. Malcolm Wanklyn, Wolverhampton Univ.

October 12 Communities in the landscape: the geological and geographical context. Mr Clive Prior, formerly Keele Univ.

October 19 Medieval communities and the locality. Dr John Hunt, Birmingham Univ.

October 26 Medieval manors in Worcestershire. Mr Kevin Down, formerly Birmingham Univ.

November 2 Moated sites – studies in colonisation and status. Dr John Hunt.

November 9 The church in medieval local society. Mr Kevin Down.

November 16 Changing communities, 17th – 19th centuries. Mr Christopher Wolland.

November 23 Religion and local communities in the 16th – 18th centuries. Mr Tim Bridges, Worcester museum.

November 30 Making a living in Worcestershire, 16th – 19th centuries. Mrs Pamela Hurle.

December 7 Families and family life.

Mrs Pamela Hurle.

For further information tel: 01886 888 519, 01886 888431, or 01886 888 320.

Knightswick and District Trefoil Guild

At our August meeting eleven members enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at Warren Farm, Bromyard Downs. We were given bread to feed the animals as we wandered through the farm, taking in the stunning views of the surrounding countryside. We went into "The Maize Maze" and luckily finished with as many members as we started with.

The owners, James and Victoria Hawkins, made us feel extremely welcome. James gave us a very informative talk about the workings of the farm and Victoria provided us with a scrumptious cream tea, which was very much enjoyed by all. We ate this in one of the outbuildings, which had had numerous functions over the years, including a stable and a barn, purchases were also made by some members of local produce and crafts sold in the shop and pantry.

Wichenford 100 Club

AGM to be held on Tuesday 18th October @ 8pm in Memorial Hall

August winner: Bill Mason. No 188. £112.

Millennium Green Tidying & Inspection Rota.

October: VIC REED

Geraldine Cooper

Sudan Correspondent 11

Readers will be glad to know that following this final instalment, written in December 2004, our Sudan Correspondent, John Layton, arrived home safely. Here he tells us about his final days in Sudan

Garsila is typical of the larger villages in this region: there are a few shops here, one of which manages to sell soft drinks from a refrigerator. How the shopkeeper keeps supplying these cold drinks I am not quite sure, as electricity is almost non-existent. There is a daily market, a clinic, a school and various other civil amenities. Fuel is expensive, but camels and donkeys have no need for the ever-diminishing, and thus continually more expensive, fossil fuel. The use of camels for bulky items says much for local conditions. And donkeys; well, until I came here I thought they were a dying breed!

Oh those Russians

The journey to Garsila was by Russian MIG 8 helicopter and was accomplished at a lowish height, giving one the opportunity to survey the countryside – which exhibited desert-like conditions, with very few signs of life. For high value-goods helicopters are by far the most secure and safest method of delivery. Transporting anything by road in Darfur is a very risky affair. Dropping me off without even stopping the rotors, the pilot allowed me to

move my luggage and some essential stores out of the immediate downdraft danger area and the helicopter rose quickly into the air and was away to its next port of call. The first question that comes to mind is: I wonder if any of these fellows speaks English? It was soon obvious that they couldn't and as I speak very little Arabic, we would be able to communicate only by using sign language. One felt a little like Stanley waiting for Livingstone to turn up.

Staying over

The compound, when we reached it, was a welcome. It consisted of a large area surrounded by a high wall with enough room inside to house any vehicles during the night. Corrugated iron sheets were used to make a pair of doors for the compound entrance. Inside the buildings consisted of a couple of small tukels, low round mud-walled and conical palm-leaf-roofed huts, together with a small brick built building, on top of which was a 40-gallon drum, and two larger high-walled but corrugated-roofed, single-story buildings. The main living quarters were really nothing more than a few small interconnecting rooms with uneven dirt floors. Wire mesh covered openings in the walls acting as windows. The only door into the building was constructed of another corrugated iron sheet surrounded by a rough ill-fitting wooden frame. A few mosquito-netted beds, four cheap plastic chairs and a table, a large wooden cup-



Military regimes favoring Islamic-oriented governments have dominated national politics since independence from the UK in 1956. Sudan has been embroiled in a civil war for all but 10 years of this period (1972-82). Since 1983, the war and war- and famine-related effects have led to more than 2 million deaths and over 4 million people displaced.

board for stores and provisions along one wall: these completed the furniture. The 'power' shower was an up-turned plastic bottle with a few small holes punched in the bottom, fed by water from a drum above, via a flexible plastic pipe. The only concession here to modern living, unheard of by the indigenous population, was the provision of toilet paper, until our supply ran out.

It is normal practise that local people,

such as widows whose husbands had been killed by the conflict, are hired to act as housekeepers. The quality of the food is very poor compared with that obtainable in the UK. However, you eat what is available. Owing to the difficulties of transport, food for the camps, medical supplies, blankets, agricultural implements, water pipes, pumps, water containers etc, are considered more important than imported pleasures. The first and main meal of the day was normally taken around 11 o'clock in the morning. Any leftovers were eaten cold at the next meal. The amount of food you throw away every week could probably sustain a family in Darfur for a month. A strong constitution, excellent resilience and endless patience, are just three of the vital requirements needed when working in the aid agency environment.

Darfur

The situation in Darfur is worsening, with many violent incidents reported every day. Roads, which should be open to transport food and other supplies to the refugee camps, are being closed due to attacks on travellers. In the last six weeks, attacks, abductions and harassment of aid workers, let alone refugees, has increased considerably. It becomes difficult to provide worthwhile assistance to the IDP's and refugees. International agencies are being advised not to send staff to the camps. As a result, contingency plans are being put into place for a strategic withdrawal, if, and when, the situation

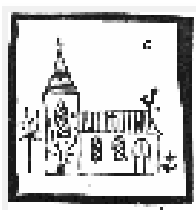
deteriorates further. If the present position does not improve before the next rainy season, we could be facing an unparalleled humanitarian disaster in Darfur - just a small part of western Sudan, but still covering an area larger than the British Isles.

I keep threatening to retire, but am finding it difficult to stop completely. Funny really, as I grow older the work hasn't, as yet, become any more difficult or less satisfying. In fact, the adrenaline still flows the same as it did with my first assignment, many years ago now. As long as my health, strength, and mental capacity to absorb new technicalities remain as they are, I will probably continue to answer a call wherever and whenever that may be.

Rutters Requiem

An hour of reflection will be held on Saturday 29 October 7.30pm at St. Peter's Church Martley during which there will be a recital of *Rutters Requiem* by the Ferndale Singers with contemplative readings and instrumental music. It is open to all, please join us if you are able.

The **Harvest Supper** for Martley will be held on Saturday 1 October 7.00pm at Martley Memorial Hall. Tickets available from the village shops or ring Tom Pearsall 01886 888526. The **Harvest Festival** will be held at St. Peter's Church on Sunday 2nd October 11.00am.



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Good news; it's certainly something that seems in short supply at the moment.

However, this morning I had a note through my door promising me good news. But its contents were only 'good news' if you could make use of the offer. I also saw a book on the 'bestsellers' stand, called good news bad news; a spy novel. But we don't need to be spies to appreciate that life is a mixture of both.

But back to that 'offer', it seems in life that offers of 'good news' seems conditional, they will only be realised if.... You can buy one and get one free, offer expires and so on.

The Bible talks of Good News being found in the person of Jesus Christ. He IS good news. We might have our doubts about religion bringing good news, yet we are promised that in him it can be found. Like that spy book, the Bible is full of stories of bad news and good news. But as we read about Jesus, the good news increases.

The stories of Jesus are all contained within the Gospels (which means good news); Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. October 23rd is a Sunday that is called Bible Sunday, when we consider the riches it contains that help us to find God and live a life that he would want

of us. However much of the Bible you have or have not read, why not read a Gospel or all of them this month and discover more of the good news on offer in Jesus, his offer is unconditional love for each and everyone of us.

If you don't have a Bible or you would like a gospel to read in a modern translation contact me so that I might supply you with one.

Revd David Sherwin

Memorial Service 2005

The annual service for the bereaved will be held at St. Peter's Martley on Sunday October 30, 3.00pm. If you have been bereaved during the past 12 months and we in this benefice have been involved, you will receive a letter of invitation. If not, or if you wish to come however long ago you suffered your bereavement, then please come. The service is open to all; family, friends and neighbours.

If you wish a name to read out at the service of a loved one who has died please let Revd. David Sherwin know so that they can be included.

Any further information please contact him on 01886 888664.

Church Diary for October

- Saturday 1st Oct 7.00pm Martley Harvest Supper at the Memorial Hall
- Sunday 2nd Oct 8.00am Holy Communion Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion St Laurence Wichenford
11.00am Harvest Service St Peter's Martley
11am Morning Worship St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
6.30pm Evensong St Leonard Cotheridge
- Monday 3rd Oct 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence Wichenford
- Tuesday 4th Oct 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
2.00pm Martley Primary School Harvest Festival, St Peter's Church
- Thursday 6th Oct 9.00am Broadwas Primary School Harvest Service, St Mary Magdalene Church
- Sunday 9th Oct 8.00am Holy Communion St Leonard Cotheridge
11.00am Harvest Service St Laurence Wichenford
11.00am Holy Communion St Peter Martley
6.30pm Harvest Evensong St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
- Monday 10th Oct 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory
- Wed 12th Oct 10.15am Holy Communion Heaton House
- Saturday 15th Oct Wichenford Harvest Supper in the Memorial Hall
- Sunday 16th Oct 8.00am Holy Communion St Peter's Martley
9.00am Matins St Leonard Cotheridge
11.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
11.00am Morning Worship St Peter's Martley
11.00am Morning Prayer St Laurence Wichenford
- Monday 17th Oct 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter's Martley
- Tuesday 18th Oct 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
- Saturday 22nd Oct Scalextric event at Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Sunday 23rd Oct 8.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's Martley
11.00am Family Worship St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
11.00am Holy Communion St Laurence Wichenford
6.30pm Evening Worship St Peter's Martley
- Monday 24th Oct 9.00am Morning Prayer St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
- Wed 26th Oct 10.15am Holy Communion Heaton House
- Saturday 29th Oct 7.30pm Concert given by the Ferndale Singers at St Peter's
- Sunday 30th Oct 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion, St Laurence Wichenford
- Sunday 30th Oct 3.00pm Benefice Memorial Service, St Peter's Martley

In the Garden



By the time this issue of the Villager comes out, your garden will be covered by the golds, yellows and browns of autumn. Indeed, the rich colours at this time of year can be truly stunning, but the vividness of the colours often depend on the weather. It is more intense with cold, dry weather than the cool, wet conditions we often have.

Remember to clear up the garden regularly. For compost, instead of throwing the leaves away, collect them and put them in bin bags, sprinkle with water and tie the top of the bag. By June next year, the leaves will have composted to be added to the compost heap. But don't use the leaves of conifers, evergreens or roses.

Try and get any evergreens planted by the end of the month. There are some winter flowering varieties that are easy to grow, such as *Viburnum tinus* and *Skimmia Rubella*. These have pink or red buds that give good winter colour, and in early spring open to pink or white flowers, giving them quite a long period of interest.

Dormant roses will be on your supermarket shelves now and they are very good value for money. If you are unable to plant immediately they will keep for a day or two in a cool place

such as a shed or garage, if you leave the roots in their protective wrapping. You can also 'heel them in' while you prepare the eventual planting site. Just bury the bare roots in a trench and cover them over with soil, they will keep like this for quite a while.

Trafalgar Day

Berrow Hill 21st October 2005

I would like to invite you all to join in the celebrations for the commemoration of Trafalgar Day on the 21st October 2005. The whole nation is getting behind the 200th Anniversary Celebrations this night by lighting Beacons throughout the UK and Channel Islands. Berrow Hill's beacon will be lit at 7.15pm.

Bring your family and friends to join in the celebrations with Fireworks at 7.45pm, bonfire and pig roast.

You are welcome to bring your own drinks and seats, so you can sit back and relax!

Transportation up the hill can be provided between 6pm and 7pm, please meet at the Berrow Farm Shoot Rooms, or if you do not require transport just follow the signs to the top of the hill.

Helen Taylor

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

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