

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 15 No. 4

Sept 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

3rd 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 & District Pre-School

What a good year this has been. We managed to raise £6,000, which is wonderful, especially as we started the school year on rather a low note, with the possibility of pre-school closing. But thanks to the wonderful staff, parents, committee members, friends and local companies, we managed to raise enough money to keep us going into next year. Thank you so much to all of you.



*Under the hammer: Brian Woodburn
at the Promise Auction*

Our biggest success this year has been the Promise Auction that took place at Plas Gwlad, the home of Mr & Mrs Finch. It was a wonderful afternoon and we cannot thank Mr & Mrs Finch enough, including their family and friends, for their overwhelming generosity and without whom we would not have made the total of £1,800.

We also owe our gratitude to Brian Woodburn for his auctioneering skills and the generosity of the companies and individuals that donated items to be auctioned. But it would not have been a success without the people that were prepared to bid, and the friends and parents that helped organise the event – again, thanks very much to all of you.

For any of you that buy on the Internet, don't forget to check out our site www.buy.at/martleypreschool where you will find over 80 retailers that will donate a percentage of all that you buy to pre-school, and it won't cost you a penny extra. You will find retailers such as Amazon, M&S, John Lewis, MFI, Play.com, and Cotton Traders etc, so take a look, we have raised £44.00 through this site since January.

It is always with a sad note that we say goodbye to so many children at the end of the summer term. I know that the staff will miss them all very much, but we are confident that we have given them the best introduction they could possibly have into their first school—and they have the unique position of being located within the school grounds. We would like to wish you all every success at primary school.

We have many fund raising events scheduled into the spring term so keep checking out the Villager and notice boards around the village for forthcoming events.

We have a lot of new children starting with us in September (don't forget we now take children from two years old) and we would like to welcome them all into pre-school life, and look forward to seeing them in the new school year.

Happy holidays to you all.

Helen Taylor
Chairman

Martley Spurs

When you read this, the new football season will already be underway. All three of our teams, the Saturday Premier, the Sunday Premier and the Sunday second division eevens, play in the Worcester League.

We hope they all do as well if not better than they did last season. No side is relegated and the club is now the proud holder of two pieces of silver-

ware. Home games are played on the Jury field, but remember no home games are played there until the cricket season is over. We are sorry to have lost one of our most ardent fans, Reg Bishop, who sadly passed away on 23rd July . Our condolences go to his family, we shall miss his presence at matches very much indeed.

Beth Williams

Martley Spurs Football Club wish to express their deepest condolences to the relatives and friends of the late **Reg Bishop**. Reg passed away on 23rd July 05, aged 84. Reg came to live at Heaton House, Martley over 20 years ago, and he has been a keen supporter of the Spurs for all those years. Reg rarely missed any Saturday or Sunday home matches, he would always stand on the touchline in all weather and was always there to support the players.

Reg always looked forward to going to the football club's Annual Dinner and Presentation awards at the end of every season. At the last one held in May 05, at the Lenchford Shrawley, the Spurs presented Reg with an award for the support he had given the club over the years. The players and guests gave Reg a standing ovation when he went up to receive it off the club chairman. Reg said afterwards he would always remember that night. We'll all miss Reg very much, may he rest in peace.

Gordon Griffiths, Chairman.

Martley & Holt Football Club

Last season saw some ups and downs for our boys. The start of the season looked bleak with neither the under 10s or under 13s having a pitch after moving from Barbers lane. Relieved, we were able to secure pitches on the playing fields, and would like to thank everyone who helped us with that, especially Graham & Steve Taylor, Martley Spurs FC and Martley Cricket Club.

In July, we were invited to play at Holt Gala and the under 10s won 4-2 against 1st division side Barbourne Royals, seeing one goal a piece from Basil Djiry-Parker & Josh Keane, and a brace from Ryan Norgrove.

Promotion

The under 13s faced a rematch against Kinver Colts. Previously, Martley came back from 3-0 down to win 6-4! This rematch also saw victory for the lads winning 2-1, with goals from David Edwards and Adam Marsh. The end of the season also saw a well deserved promotion to division one for the under 10s, notching up over 100 goals.

This season we consider ourselves lucky to still have such dedicated lads playing for Martley & Holt. Now starting a new season with under 11s and 14s and matches every weekend, the boys certainly love their football. Some of them have played for us for the past five years and we also appre-

ciate this dedication in their parents, with some away matches being as far afield as Wolverhampton! We thank them for their continued support.

It is certainly reassuring to see these lads doing something constructive with their spare time, as I am sure you will all agree.

Come along on Saturday mornings at 11am for the under 11s or Sunday afternoons at 2.30pm for the under 14s and cheer them on, everyone's welcome.

If you love football and are interested in joining the club, please contact; Simon Neale (manager/coach) and Kerry Neale (secretary) on 01905 621441 or Keith Norgrove (manager/coach) and Kathryn Smith (Child Protection Officer) on 01886 888761.

Keith Norgrove.

MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

Come and join us in the.
**WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE
MORNING,**
to be held in Martley Village Hall
Library.
Friday 30th September
10 am – 12 noon.

Everyone welcome.

Andrew Williams Memorial cup

The Andrew Williams Memorial Cup clay pigeon shoot will take place on Saturday September 3rd at Rodge Hill Farm, Martley. This is an invitation only event that spectators are welcome to attend. Proceeds will go to the committee's chosen charity. For further information please ring 01886 88812. Barbara Williams

Heritage open days

Have a free day out! English Heritage is holding a four-day celebration of local architecture, history and culture from 8th - 11th September. This event, totally free of entrance fees, opens the gates and doors of many buildings and sites, often not open to the public. For information of local sites ring 020 7539 7924 or go to www.heritageopendays.org

Royal British Legion

Knightwick, Broadwas & Cotheridge with Martley.

The August meeting was well-attended; a new member was welcomed and an application for membership accepted. Many items of business were discussed and reports of those on the sick-list were given. The chairman and members send best wishes and hope to see you at a meeting in the not-too-distant future. Various ideas for social events were discussed so watch this space.

If you are interested in the work of the Royal British Legion and would consider joining us, please ring me or speak to any member known to you.

Joyce Tyler, hon. Secretary
01886 821551

Martley & District Horticultural Society

Society members spent an interesting evening visiting two gardens. The first visit was to the "Big Leaf," at the Old Post Office, Shelsley Walsh where Wayne and Yvonne Sharples grow tropical and exotic plants (see the feature on Page 24). This is a comparatively new venture for them, having only taken up growing these plants for the past 12 months. A tour of the nursery, with explanations of the unusual plants by Wayne, was much appreciated. The second garden visited was "Hop End", Horsham, the home of Society member Mary Walker. Mary moved in to this property four years ago where there was no garden, and has worked hard to establish a new formal garden. Refreshments were served, followed by a short informal meeting to end a very pleasant evening.

Don't forget that the meeting on Thursday 29th September, 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall is an open evening, when the guest speaker will be Brian Draper MBE, talking about "The Hidden Wildlife of a City". Do come and join us!

Nellie Bradley

***Martley Ramblers –
11th September, 2pm
Church Car Park***

The Mordiford Loop walk, led by Ken Brooks, was a most enjoyable mixture of hills (very steep in parts) woodland and stream side paths. It was a very hot afternoon and the Ramblers were grateful to be able to relax in Ken and Ann's lovely garden afterwards, and especially appreciated the tea and scones they provided. Thank you very much Ann and Ken. This month David Wilkes will be leading around Bransford. Will it include the footpath across the golf course and will we have to duck to avoid flying golf balls? Come along and find out. Hard hats probably not needed.

Kate King

***Royal British Legion,
Knightwick, Broadwas and
Cotheridge Branch with
Martley***

The July meeting was fairly well attended despite some members on the sick list and the lucky ones on holiday. All agreed that the trip to the Violette Szabo GC Museum at Wormelow, Herefordshire had been a very special day out. The moving service was followed by a most telling story of Violette's short but dangerous life as a British agent in France during the Second World War. To hear Virginia

McKenna OBE recite the famous poem was very moving indeed. All this took place in the garden of a cottage in Wormelow, which also has a small museum dedicated to Violette. For information about this museum contact Rosemary Rigby MBE, Violette Szabo GC Museum, Wormelow Herefordshire HR2 8HN, Tel: 01981-540477.

Thank you to the faithful few members and parishioners who attended the service at Broadwas Church on Sunday 10th July. We were led in and out of the church by Cedric Cooper playing the bagpipes – a first for St Mary Magdalene? Our Padre, John Guise, officiated, Andrew Callow was Standard Bearer, readers were Fred Seiker and Charles Fowler. Following the service, we retired to the Royal Oak where we were warmly received by Marcus, Mark and staff for the traditional 'sherry taking'.

Joyce Tyler, Hon Secretary, 01886-821551

Pudford Lane

Congratulations are in order this month. Firstly to Tessa Froggatt and Robert Pound on their wedding on 29th July. It is not often we have a wedding in the lane. We hope they have a long and happy life together. What a pity the weather could not have been kinder, it was hardly a warm, sunny and dry day. Secondly to Val Weddell-Hall on being appointed

Headteacher for what will be Franche Primary School from 2007 following the re-organisation of schools in the Wyre Forest Authority. There will obviously be a lot of hard work ahead for Val and her dedicated staff. The late July rains were welcome for the parched gardens (but not for weddings), and for the stone fruit that seems to be in short supply, probably due to the cold dry spring. The Pudford Stream has not re-appeared, but watch this space.

Kate King

***Martley WI - Wednesday 14
September, 7.30pm
Sport Martley***

Back to base for the remainder of this year's programme after being out and about in August visiting and cooking and exhibiting for the Horticultural Show. The recent talk by Dr Katherine Lack was a fascinating look at the life and times of Medieval Pilgrims. This month will be a complete change when Terry Church tells us some of his memories of the Black Country, hopefully including some humorous tales. The competition is for an amusing original poem. The annual competition for the Millennium Plates, to be judged in October, is for a tablemat in any medium, so now is the time to begin thinking about it.

Kate King

Martley Parish Council

Draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Martley Parish Council held on Monday 8th August, 2005 at the Memorial Hall. Cllr Mr. D. Cropp Chairman.

Licensing Law

The chairman announced that The Memorial Hall had applied for licences for both the hall and bar. An inspector had visited the Chairman to check on safe approach and landing for helicopters; he was referred to Brook Court. The Parish Council Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8:10 pm.

Parish Map:

Cllr. Mr. C. Coombey-Jones has supplied the map to the Clerk who has laminated it.

District councillor's report:

District Councillor Mrs. B. Williams had sent a report to the Clerk which was read out. This included details of the proposed changes to the Planning Committee format. This had caused some disagreement and the matter is referred back for more consultation. The Chairman has also attended a meeting on this subject and confirmed that strong opposition had been expressed (relevant documentation is attached to these minutes as an addendum).

DCllr. B. Williams had also reported about her position on the Policy and Development review committee, which is studying affordable housing. It is not likely that any land will be released for this until The Local Plan

is approved in about 12 months.

Correspondence: Severn Trent Water: PC complaint letter and reply, ref. 1 Mortlake Drive.

Malvern Hills CAB:AGM 26th.July.

Christopher Betts: Re. Footpath issues from their offices to centre of village. (This to be an agenda item in the near future.)

Planning: Applications received: 1. 05/00940/FUL Old house Horsham, 3 bay garage to replace existing lean to Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor. Already returned to Planning (no comment). Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn:

1. 05/00880/FUL 15 Mortlake Drive. Approved

Finance: There were 7 cheques totaling **£1,034.83** for agreement and signature. WCC Lengthman June 05 £350.00

The acceptance of the finances was resolved. The Clerk presented the internal auditor's report and the Statement of Assurance; it was resolved to accept these two items.

Parish Paths Warden Report: No report this month.. **Urgent Decisions since last meeting:** None.

Councillor Training: Two more dates have been set: 24th. October and 12th. December.

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

1. Cllr. R. McHugh thought that the traffic calming measures for Ankerdine Hill may cause more problems than they solve. The Clerk to reply to Mr. Carless (WCC) and invite

him to a meeting.

2. Cllr. N. Stammers mentioned that several parishioners had reported dog mess near the doctor's surgery; the Clerk to write to the alleged dog owner.

3. No reply has been received from MHDC Planning Enforcement ref. caravans at Lower Hollins Farm; the Clerk to follow up.

4. Barbers Lane has now been resurfaced, but the gully in the centre of the bridge is filled with tarmac; the Clerk to arrange for the Lengthman to clear.

4. A separate committee is to be formed to look at raising grants.

5. An agenda item is required to discuss "Local Works" (sustainable local communities)

Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting is on Monday 5th. September 2005 at 8 pm.

The presentation ceremony for Freedom of Martley Awards will take place at 7.30 pm.

Tom Pearsall

Clerk to the Council

01886 888256

100 years ago in Martley

At the end of this month, 100 years ago, the hop-picking was not finished, so the school holidays were extended one week into October.

ALB

Chantry news



The Chantry High School had a successful and rewarding year. There were sporting events and triumphs, personal achievements for pupils and teachers, and some very professional musical productions.

The pupils must also be commended for their awareness of community and world issues and the fundraising they did to support The Tsunami Appeal, Children In Need, Comic Relief, and other charitable causes. With regard to fundraising, we should also mention Miss Lee who bravely completed a tandem skydive to raise funds for the breast cancer charity 'Breakthrough'.

A sad farewell has been said to last year's Year 11 and they are all wished every success in all their future endeavours. We would like to say a big welcome to the incoming Year 7 and hope they settle in quickly and enjoy all that the school has to offer.

Jungle poems

In the jungle

In the jungle where the path trees grow, I saw...

A tiger pouncing

A horse trotting

A snake slithering

A rabbit hopping

A lion roaring

An elephant stamping

A hyena laughing

A panther bouncing

What did you see in the jungle?

Chloe Stokes (8)

Jungle life

In the jungle where the wild flowers grow

There's now people that you would know.

There is the slithering snake, big mistake,

Even a deer that can hear a little tear

Dropping from a crocodile's eye,

A kangaroo jumping,

An elephant bumping

That is jungle life.

Elisha White (9)

Chloe and Elisha attend Martley Primary School and have had their poems published in Playground Poets, Heart of England, Poetry by 7-11 years olds from across Worcestershire.



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th July 2005 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Councillor Britten-Long chaired the meeting.

Apologies and approval of absence.

Councillor Oldfield, (Accepted).

Cllr Wetherall has written a letter of resignation to the parish council. The clerk was asked to advertise the vacancy on the notice boards ready for co-option at the next meeting. Letter of thanks to be written.

Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2005 were accepted and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Rendall and seconded by Cllr Wells.

Insurance Policy Review. The insurance renewal premium has been revised to include a 10% premium discount from the mandatory section and a 5% long-term undertaking discount. This has now been paid due to it expir-

ing the 1st June.

Highways

The temporary TRO on Rosses Lane and Guises Lane have been extended to February 2006.

The County Council replied promptly to the parish council's letter regarding the ramblers and footpath 20. Letter distributed in correspondence folder.

Planning. Application 05/00695/FUL Conservatory and swimming pool extension at Allsett Farm, comments from MHDC distributed in correspondence folder.

Applications to be discussed.

05/01023/Ful. Two-storey extension to rear at 17 Queens Estate.

The parish council did a site visit to this property prior to the meeting.

Although the parish council have no objection in principle, they did have several comments to make to the planning authority.

05/00888/Ful. Amendments to approved barn conversion at unit 3 Rimmers Farm.

The parish council has no objections to these amendments.

Applications received for comment since the last meeting.

Decisions made by MHDC

05/00554/Ful Colketts Farm, Wichenford (Agricultural Roadway) Refused.

05/00449/Ful Buryend Town Farm, Wichenford (Steel Portal framed building) Passed.

05/00225/LBC- 05/00214/Ful Kenswick Mill Barn. (First floor extension) Passed.

05/00529/Ful Masons Arms Wichenford. (single storey dining and kitchen extn) Passed

05/00634/Ful Glynheath Wichenford (conservatory) Passed.

05/00695/Ful Allsetts Farm (conservatory and swimming pool extn) Passed

05/00714/Ful Byre End Barn, Wichenford (Revised siting of garage) Passed

Finance. There were 4 cheques totaling £2,963.85 for agreement and signature.

A total of £813.00 has already been paid since the last meeting. This included payments to the lengths man, internal auditor and Allianz Cornhill.

It was resolved to accept the income/expenditure account. The clerk was asked to close the account with the worst interest rate.

Highways. The Parish Paths Partnership application for 05/06 was signed and dated.

After further correspondence between the HPU and the parish council we have been successful in our request for the advisory notices, which will be placed at the four junctions to Barbers

Lane/Poplar Road and Dirty Lane. The sign will inform motorists that this is a single track lane with no passing places.

The clerk was asked to inform to Martley parish council as two of the signs will be located in their parish.

Work is due to start imminently on Barbers Lane and the council requested that the clerk contact the highways department for clarification regarding what they are doing.

B4197-Ankerdine Hill. After a number of concerns expressed by local residents about the use of the road by heavy goods vehicles, the County Council have placed a restriction prohibiting lorries in excess of 18 tonnes.

Kingsgreen. The resurfacing and drainage work has now been completed to WCC specification. As the parish council received additional funds under (P3) for this work, the invoice for £2,052.72 was agreed and the clerk was asked to reclaim the VAT.

Correspondence. For decision by the Parish Council, a letter from MHDC and from the District Councillor of the Woodbury Ward was discussed. It has been agreed by the district council to scrap the two local area development control committees and replace it with one district-wide committee.

Unfortunately, no one from our parish council was able to attend as the meeting was being held tonight. It was agreed that we write to the District Councillor with our comments against this proposal.

For information only.

All correspondence listed on the agenda has been circulated for councillors to read.

Correspondence received after the agenda was written.

Calc mail (distributed to councillors at meeting)

Councillors updated names/addresses/email numbers etc (distributed at meeting)

The clerk will also put one on each notice board.

New route for referrals to social services leaflet. (to be placed on notice board)

WCC sharelink vehicle sharing scheme leaflet.

MHDC best value review of planning services (apologies sent)

Cllr Wetherall resignation letter. (discussed in 05/52)

NPDC AGM postponed.

Councillor's reports. Cllr Wells reported that a circular footpath route is now possible following footpaths 17, 18 and 20. The path wardens have placed a bid with the countryside service for a new gate to be placed behind Buryend Town Farm, which will make another circular walk possible. Cllr Rendall reported that Ian Bamforth is leaving the countryside agency and he has been a great help to the Pathfinders. A report on Rosses Lane and Guises Lane will be issued at the end of the week. Landowners will also be issued with a copy.

Cllr Wells asked if we could look into the possibility of a bottle bank as the

lengthsman sees lots of discarded bottles during his duties. The clerk was requested to make some inquiries and report at the next meeting.

Items for future agendas.

.5th September 2005 at 7.30pm.

10th October 2005 at 7.30pm

22nd November 2005 at 7.30pm

District Councillors Report. Cllr Williams reported that she has spoken to the head of planning regarding our query at the last meeting and the parish council are right. It was resolved to write to the head of planning on this matter and get him to clarify what exactly the position is.

The question of the amount of toilets at the Masons Arms is an environmental issue.

County councillors report. Under Local Government Act 04, the County Council must have a department that leads on children, and they now have a children's service department at County Hall. The rest of social services are now adult services.

800 representatives are going to government at the end of the month to review the Local Transport Plan. A study done from Spring-Oct proved the best way forward is to reduce congestion in Worcester.

A new magazine, Word on Worcester, will replace the Worcestershire Beacon, it is free and the county council would like it delivered through the parish magazines.

The Joint Councillors Forum is being replaced Community Leadership. A 3 monthly meeting in different areas of

the county, the 1st being in Martley in September.

Cllr Davies reported that local people want the weight limit on Ankerdine Hill to be reduced to 7.5 tonnes; if this were done it would create some difficulty as there is no alternative route. Large lorries are being discouraged from using Ankerdine Hill, but the freight transport map gives Ankerdine as the preferred route.

Shirley Sanders Clerk to the Council (01886 888302)

Open Gardens

Wow! What a success!

Open Gardens this year raised over £5,800!

Can we say a very BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way, shape or form to achieve this result, and of course to everyone who supported the event.

A record number of people visited the gardens (due in no small part to the excellent publicity we'd managed to generate) and were full of praise for the friendliness and hospitality they received – and of course for the gardens themselves.

The weather was kind – particularly on Sunday – the stalls were well supported, many cars were washed and close to six hundred meals were served during the weekend!

As a result of the event we have been able to make the following donations:-

St Richard's Hospice
£2,850

Friends of St Laurence Church
£2,000

Wichenford Millennium Green
Trust £750 + £130 Car Wash

Wichenford Memorial Hall
£109

So, once again a huge thank you to everyone, and a reminder that it's only two years until we do it all again!

Alan Green
For Wichenford Open Gardens

WICHENFORD 100 CLUB

July winner: P. Bakewell. No: 165.
£112.

Millennium green tidying and inspection rota.

September: D. WOODWARD.

The Joint Wichenford - U3A Science Group

Readers will be interested to know that this newly formed group had a very successful first year of operation, with an average attendance of between 12 and 15 devotees. Meetings took place in the Committee Room of Wichenford Memorial Hall on the First and Third Monday of each month from October to April. Each two-hour session kicked off with a formal talk by a member of the group, with the emphasis being very much on basic ideas and concepts, rather than on mathematical complexity.

Following a coffee break, the session

was rounded off by an unstructured round-table discussion of topical issues raised by members as a result of their private reading or viewing.

The success of this venture has in no small measure been helped by the use of modern technology in the form of a digital projector, kindly made available by the local Heritage Group. It is planned to continue with this successful formula over the coming 2005/6 "academic year", starting on Monday 3rd October 2005 at 10.00am.

Interest would therefore be welcomed from anyone with a general interest in science and technology: in this context, we would be particularly pleased to hear from anyone with a background in the life sciences who could perhaps contribute to our programme on such topics as plant/animal science, ecology, genetics etc. For the record, our current members include a chemist, pharmacist, medic, physicist, engineers, and a local artist /inventor. Enquiries welcome on 01886 888 122.

Rod Latham

Heritage Weekend – 10/11 September

Memorabilia on Wichenford School is needed for an exhibition in the Memorial Hall at the Heritage weekend. Photographs, news cuttings, posters, programmes, anything and everything, no matter how old. Great care will be taken with any items, which will be

recorded and returned to you. Those of you who remember the exhibition held at the Centenary School Celebrations will also remember the amount of material we found then. Please call 01886-888611 or 01886-888325 and we will collect. Thank you.

Flower Rota

4 September Mrs Wetherall
11 September Mrs Williams
18 September Mrs Whyatt
25 September Mrs Smith

Parochial Church Council

There will be a PCC meeting on 5th September at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall

Get Well

We are very sorry to hear that Mrs Jane Wheeler has had a fall and send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Ladies Fellowship

There won 20th September, 2.30pm at the home of Brenda ill be a meeting of the Ladies Fellowship Hadfields.

Reconstructing local communities

What were the principal 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 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 has been shaped, and to reconstruct past communities. A course of 10 meetings, Wednesday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm, commencing 5th October 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 at 7.30pm on 28 September. Please be prompt as this will be followed by a 'launch party'.

5 October

"Approaches and the types of evidence available for reconstructing local communities," Prof Malcolm Wanklyn, Wolverhampton University.

12 October

"Communities in the landscape: the geological and geographical context," Mr Clive Prior, formerly Keele University.

19 October

"Medieval communities and the locality," Dr John Hunt, University of Birmingham.

26 October

"Medieval manors in Worcestershire," Mr Kevin Down, formerly University of Birmingham.

2 November

"Moated sites – studies in colonisation and status," Dr John Hunt.

9 November

"The Church in medieval local society," Mr Kevin Down.

16 November

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

23 November

"Religion and local communities in the 16th – 18th centuries," Mr Tim Bridges, Worcester Museum.

30 November

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

7 December

"Families and Family Life," Mrs Pamela Hurle. For further information telephone: 01886-888519, 01886-888431 or 01886-888320.

Distribute The Villager

Wanted at the end of September, someone to organise the main distribution of the October issue of *The Villager* for Martley

-For one month only -

Please phone June on 01886 821064.

If no-one steps forward, Martley households will not receive their copy of the October issue of *The Villager* until late October.

Wayne's world

Although Shelsley Walsh is several thousand miles from the tropics, Wayne Sharples hasn't let that get in the way of business.

In his idyllic corner of Worcestershire, five minutes from Martley, Wayne has turned his obsession into a going concern, converting his 16th century Tudor farmhouse, garden and outbuildings into a centre for lush, tropical plant life.

Wayne is the first to admit that it's a hobby gone mad, but more importantly it's also a hobby that is starting to pay off.

"It all started about a year ago when I bought up loads of bankrupt stock from a tropical centre in Catalonia, Spain," Wayne says. "I was shown pictures from the Internet and agreed a liquidated goods price. I then drove the van down there to pick up the plants."

The liquidated stock was just what he needed to give the business a necessary boost.

"About 20-30% of the stock I have was from Catalonia. I picked up plants like Papyrus and the Canna, which multiply each year. So 12 months on, instead of having the original 20 of most things, I've got 200."

After driving his stock home from Spain, Wayne built a polytunnel on the land surrounding his house. This helps him keep the correct temperature and humidity for the plants to survive the



Green fingers: Wayne Sharples, owner of Big Leaf

freezing winters. He admits that his passion is for tropical big leaf plants such as bananas, Colocasias and Alocasias and, inevitably, he called his business Big Leaf after his favourite flora. He's also particularly proud of his tree ferns from Tasmania, some of which are more than 200 years old.

With the Catalonia stock added to plants he's sourced in the UK, Wayne reckons he now has about 4,500 pots and he's hoping to double this to 9,000 by the end of 2005.

Wayne admits his flora does not appeal to everyone, but enthusiasts can border on the obsessive. A reason for

the popularity of tropical plants is their hardy nature; they need little maintenance if cared for properly.

"A high percentage of my stock is hardy and the rest can be overwintered with a small amount of care.

"Tropical plants are very morish, you get bitten by the bug. If you've got a specimen plant and you've invested money and time, you tend to take more time and pay attention to the care of it; feed them at the right moments. I even play classical music to them. Vivaldi's Four Seasons is a favourite with plants. It's proven that they grow faster when being serenaded."

While eschewing the traditional nursery-type of business, Wayne's tropical world is spreading through word of mouth among enthusiasts. It has also caught the attention of some larger businesses that need the kind of expertise he offers.

"I've supplied the Sealife Centre in Birmingham with palms outside. It gives the area a tropical feel. Everything inside is plastic, so they want a few real plants to attract people outside. Also, locally there have been people wanting bananas and bamboos in particular.

"I've also got an order from another big company, which I'm not able to name at the moment, for 10 Musa Basjoo bananas. They're Himalayan, growing at 8-10,000 feet. They're the only species that can grow in this country with a modicum of protection."

While the word is spreading about Big

Leaf, Wayne also has the good fortune to be located directly opposite the UK's oldest hill climb site – which hosted motor racing rallies throughout the summer.

"With the hill climb opposite, you can sell plants over the garden gate, and you get 5,000 people five times a year looking at the stock. This year the hill climb was 100 years old, and July and August were really big events.

"They're going to push the boat out in their advertising, so I'm advertising in their brochure. They also put me on their Website, which had 150,000 hits."

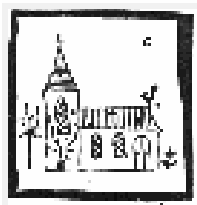
Wayne likes to call his business a garden rather than a nursery, he wants people to feel that they're inclusive when they look around. He even travels to customers' homes to advise on how best to set up and maintain their plants.

"I never wanted to be a garden centre as such. I've turned my private garden into a business and will have the odd open days. My dream is to have a mail order company, a Website and a catalogue. I don't want to be a big business nursery. I want small groups and individuals to stop by to look.

"You've got to provide a service to get by. It's good to think you can grow a plant, make it look nice and people will buy it from you."

www.bigleaf.co.uk

Andrew Chilvers



Church Words

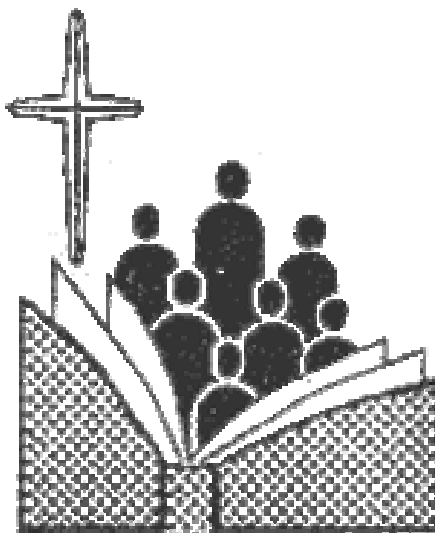
The Rectory 01886 888664

Harvest is well under way and we shall begin celebrating such during the next two months. How did you get on? Did you grow anything yourself? If you did, like me you probably had to wrestle with weeds that take no effort to grow, and even if we dug over our plot well, they seem to find their way back. Yet for all the effort, we are delighted when our crops grow and we can enjoy the fruits of our labours on the dining table.

During the summer, I enjoyed walking local paths, some through fields of crops. As I did this, I stood in awe of the beauty of nature. Seeing the crops covering the fields with colour and shimmering in the breeze. I was also reminded of Jesus being surrounded by crowds who hung on his every word. As they pressed in on him perhaps pointing across at a field with a farmer sowing seed, or pointing out something he saw in a field. One such story he told was of someone who sowed weeds in the farmers field, growing good crops along with weeds, this I witnessed on my walks as if it were with Jesus telling me the story afresh. From these illustrations and stories from nature, these parables, he would teach them about his Kingdom

and what his Kingdom was like. They can be found in Matthew chapter 13, along with other stories.

Jesus is still teaching us, and his parables are still as relevant today as they ever were. As we look in the fields around us in this beautiful countryside, let us remember the one who gives the growth, our creator, and the harvest he expects from our lives each day too. Our life is not for the dining table, but rather to be fruitful lives that give glory to God in the way we live each day. That is indeed a pleasing offering to be given to him at Harvest and each day.



Church Diary for September

Rev David Sherwin

Sunday 4th Sept 8.00am Holy Communion Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion St Laurence Wichenford
11.00am Family Worship St Peter Martley
11am Morning Worship St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
6.30pm Harvest Evensong St Leonard Cotheridge
6.30pm Youth Meeting, Martley Rectory

Monday 5th Sept 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence Wichenford
7.45pm Wichenford PCC meeting, at the Memorial Hall

Tuesday 6th Sept 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
7.30pm LTV PCC meeting, at Knightwick Parish Hall

Sunday 11th Sept 8.00am Holy Communion St Leonard Cotheridge
10.00am Family Worship St Laurence Wichenford
11.00am Holy Communion St Peter Martley
11.00am Morning Worship St Mary Magdalene Broadwas
6.30pm Youth Meeting, Martley Rectory

Monday 12th Sept 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at The Orchard, Newtown
7.30pm Martley PCC meeting, at the Rectory

Wed 14th Sept 10.15am Holy Communion Heaton House
7.30pm Wardens Meeting at the Rectory

Saturday 17th Sept 7.30pm Benefice Quiz Night, Broadwas Village Hall

Sunday 18th Sept 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
6.30pm Evensong St Laurence Wichenford

In the Garden



Garden tips for September



September – the month of harvest, when potatoes, onions, shallots and beetroot will be ripe and ready to store. Keep flowers dead-headed in order to prolong blossoms. Take cuttings of fuchsias, pelargoniums, hydrangeas, heathers and many other shrubs. Continue to feed tomatoes. Plant out raised plants of Spring cabbage and purple and white sprouting. Time to plant out wallflowers and Sweet Williams. Sow Winter lettuce seed if you have winter protection for early spring maturing plants. Winter flowering bulbs will need planting up this month to flower in December. September is a good month for sowing grass seed.

Jack Bradley

A new editor for the Villager

I have enjoyed working on The Villager for the past four-and-a-half years and have met some interesting people whom I otherwise would probably not have met – I have certainly got more involved with village life! It is with regret that I am giving up the Editorship, but pressure of work demands it. However, I am confident that I am leaving The Villager in capable hands when I hand it over to Andrew Chilvers in September, ready for the October issue. Andrew lives in the parish of Kenswick and Wichenford although he has strong links with Martley via the Primary School. After four editors from Martley, it is good to see someone from Wichenford now taking up the challenge! No doubt Andrew will introduce himself in the next issue of The Villager.

Michelle Higgins



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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