

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 18 No. 4

September 2008

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

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

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

3rd Sunday in the month:

Path-or-Nones meet 9.30am Martley Memorial Hall car park to help maintain the local footpaths

Mondays

Rhythm Time: 9.30-11.30am Martley Memorial Hall Enq. Rachel 01886 812565
Martley Parish Council: 1st Monday in the month 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling: 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

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

Martley Mums and Tots: 9.30-11.30am
Martley Memorial Hall

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing:
7pm Martley Memorial Hall Enq. Jeff & Thelma 01886 821772

Martley Folk Club: 1st Wednesday in the month at The Talbot, Knightwick and 3rd Wednesday at The Admiral Rodney

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

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

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

See Church Words on page 27 for details of services

See articles inside for details of special events AND changes of time/date/venue 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)

See page 28 for contact details of organisations

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

Records of the Parish Council meetings in the two parishes are not intended to be full and complete minutes. Minutes of meetings can be seen by contacting the respective Clerks to the Councils.

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



YIMM's Update

I am delighted to announce that, subject to funding, Martley's second YIMMs (Youth In Martley Matters) event will take place on Saturday 13 September 2008 at The Chantry High School. Keep your eyes peeled and ears open for more info over the next few weeks!

Thanks to everyone who supported us in April – can't wait to see you again in September!

Cllr. Mrs Emma Rothwell

Village of the Year

We are in the first round of the "Village of the Year" <http://www.villageoftheyear.org/> for Worcestershire. The judges visited on Monday 11 August for about two hours. This list gives you an idea of the range of activities that we have in Martley and that the co-ordinators wanted to show the Judges (in no particular order): Path-or-Nones, Bell Ringers, The Villager, Church & CARL, WI, Horticultural Soc., Playgroup/ Martley Pre-School, Ramblers, Young Farmers, Old Grammar School Foundation, Youth

in Martley, Tree Warden, Primary School Natural Area, Litter Picker, Lengthsman, Library, CSO Policeman, Millennium Green, SSS, Environmental Officer.

Martley Allotments Update

Good news! There is now more than the minimum number of people (six is the legally-required minimum) who wish to have an allotment in Martley so we can take the next step in finding a suitable parcel of land. But we are still looking for enthusiastic folk who might be tempted to try their hand at "growing their own", so keep those addresses and phone numbers coming in please!

A few people asked about the size of plots that would be offered. Traditional plots are large, enough to keep an average family in basic fruit and vegetables for the year. However, they do take a lot of hard physical work to keep up, as well as time, which not everyone is lucky enough to have. So the plan is to offer smaller plots, for those who either don't need or are unable to manage a bigger one.

In the Autumn I shall contact everyone whose name is on the list

with a view to calling an informal initial meeting to introduce ourselves, and to discuss the way forward. Amongst many other things, we shall need a name! Please contact me if you wish your name to be put on the list.
Email: angiehill1350@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 01886 888762

Martley Spurs

Our boys will have played a couple of games by the time you read this and, of course, there were no league matches in July. All three teams will be playing the new season in their usual leagues. The Saturday eleven play in the sole Saturday league which has no other minor divisions. This competition has eleven sides in it and sees the return of Powick. The complete list is basically the same as last season.

The Sunday side remains in the Premier League together with eleven other local teams; the reserves still take part in the Sunday Division One. News of all the fund raising events to be held in August will appear in our next edition. As usual, if you, or anyone you know, are interested in playing for one of our teams just give Gordon Griffiths a ring on 01886-888602.

Beth Williams

Martley & District Pre-School

Its 'back to school time' after the summer break and also time to say welcome to Matilda Mulcahy, Ben Stead, Charlie Edwards, Isabelle



Pritchard, Molly Dew, Merrick Smith, Callum Evans and also to Kate Partridge who joins us as a new member of the staff team. We start this

term with the topic of 'All about Me'.

Our Heart of Martley Appeal has raised over £11,000 towards our heating and electrical modernisation, but we still have a way to go until we hit our £15,000 target. A huge thank you this month to Betsy Davies, Martley Parish Council, Margaret Box, Norman Barrow, The Areley Kings Players, CB & HH Taylor Trust, Richard Cadbury trust, The Pearce Family, J & B Duffield and TN & P Micklewright. You can safeguard the Pre-School's future and donate at Martley Pre-School, Post Office, the Admiral Rodney and Central Stores or download a donation form from our website.

Cleaner Wanted: three hours per week- flexible hours to suit, call Kath for more information- 01886 889127

Don't forget! We are a registered eco-setting with 20 years of history and take children from two years old. We have just celebrated our 2nd anniversary of breakfast and after school clubs for children aged two to thirteen years. If you need any information, or would like to book a place for your child please feel free to call Kath or Lucy on 01886 889127 or visit our website www.martleypreschool.co.uk



If you're a parent or a carer, or maybe a grandparent, you know just how tough family life can be at times. Home-Start Malvern Hills works with families who are facing the particular challenges of parenting children aged under 5 years and families who may have difficulties from time to time. It doesn't matter who you are: raising a young family can be hard. Post-natal depression, the birth of twins, bereavement, illness and loneliness can all be challenges to a young family. The personal and friendly approach of Home-Start volunteers can reassure parents that what they are going through is not unusual, and that they are not alone.

Home-Start is currently looking for new volunteers in the Teme Valley area. If you have parenting experience and can give 2-3 hours a week to visit a family and offer friendly support, advice and a listening ear – as well as some practical help – we would love to hear from you. A comprehensive 'Preparation Course' is planned. For more information contact Jess Holden at Home-Start on 01684 893125, email: homestartmalvern@btconnect.com or have a chat with us at the Children's Centre on 01886 812982.

Details of TVC activities are on our website www.temevalley-cc.org.uk, in our monthly newsletter 'Teme Valley Views' or contact Sam on 01886 812982.

Folk Music Nights

The regular folk nights have resumed at The Admiral Rodney on the third Wednesday of each month. This is in addition to the Talbot sessions that are still on the first Wednesday of the month.

AH

Martley Young Farmers

On a cold wet summer's night MYF went to Top Barn Activity Centre. They all had a fabulous time building rafts and kayaking on the lake. On a warm summer's night the MYF challenged Upton to a rounders match to win the pig trophy. Unfortunately they couldn't use Martley playing fields so the match took place at Clifton. Upton arrived looking very sure of themselves when they saw our young team, but what a surprise they had – MYF can run fast, catch and throw well, giving a result of 19 to Martley, 7 to Upton. Well done to you all for winning the trophy.

MYF are holding a 'back to school' theme disco at the Wharf Hotel, Holt on Friday 5 September; no under-16s, no non-members under 18, members £4, non-members £8. For any further information contact Lou on 01886-812754.

Older People's Support Service

Update from Festival Housing on the new Older People's Support Service. The June issue of The Villager reported on the new support service being introduced by Festival Housing

in its sheltered housing schemes and for people aged 55 and over in the wider community. The aim of the service is to support people to live independently in their own homes by offering flexible support. As well as emergency call alarm provision, there will be a visiting support service which can deliver a maximum of three hours of support per week. Customers will have more control and choice regarding the level of service they receive based on their own personal needs. For example, the new service will allow individuals who do not want any support to say so and stop the service, an option not previously available. However, please be reassured that everyone can apply to return to the support service at any time.

Support will be planned in advance so customers will know when their Support Worker will visit during Monday to Friday. In addition, a new out-of-hours Support and Advice Service will be introduced, accessed via the emergency call alarm system. This service will offer advice and co-ordinate practical solutions to requests for support received outside normal working hours.

Residents living at Heaton House were provided with information about the proposals. Residents, their families and other community members met with representatives of Festival at a meeting on 13 March when the new service was explained. Our residents they told us they prefer to have one Support Worker rather than a team of

staff. We have taken this on board and the new service will offer customers their own dedicated Support Worker. The changes to the support service will be launched on 29 September 2008. In readiness for this, all residents of sheltered housing are having individual appointments to confirm personal support needs and plans.

Anyone over 55, living in the Martley area, who may benefit from having a support service is invited to phone 01684 579336 for more details and ask to be placed on an enquiry list. We hope this information is helpful.

Hilary Deakin

Festival Housing Group

Martley Parish Council is in the process of arranging a meeting with representatives of Festival Housing to express concerns on behalf of the parishioners of Martley with regard to this proposal. Once a date is confirmed, parishioners will be informed so that their views can be represented at the meeting by Councillors.

Sally Williams,

Clerk to Martley Parish Council

Tel: 01299 832949

Martley Ramblers

14 September 2pm church car park

Many thanks to Pam Bowers for stepping into the breach and planning and leading such an interesting walk around Dudmaston. This walk had to be cancelled in 2007 due to flooding but all was well this year. The riverside paths were dry and there were wonderful views from the upland areas. This month we are a little nearer

home, in the Alfrick and Suckley area. 2pm start from the church car park to meet up with leader Colin Hill. Everyone welcome, including well-behaved dogs.

Kate King

Walk for Life

Congratulations to Wendy Smith (Perkins) who raised £450 from her recent walk. Many thanks to all who sponsored her.

Sue Ganderton



Martley WI

10 Sept. Heaton House 7.30pm.

Although autumn is approaching, life seems as busy as ever with all the activities planned both locally and countrywide. This month our speaker is Catherine Clark talking about her life and hats. The competition is for an old wedding photo.

Many thanks to all who baked and helped at the cake stall at the Bluesfest at the Mason's Arms. In spite of the bad weather £60 was raised for the Heart of Martley Appeal. Mike Kipping kindly erected a gazebo to give us some protection but, alas, it was blown down. The sun started to melt the icing on the cakes, and so, in spite of being hit on the head by the framework, Sheila Craker fetched her car and we sold from the car boot. Who said WI members are not resourceful? Sheila has promised not

to sue for pain and suffering.

Members, husbands, partners and friends enjoyed a jolly and sunny evening on the River Avon in August. The evening consisted of an excellent 'Ploughman's' plus liquid refreshment while gliding down the river in The Spirit of Freedom. We get the impression that the fishermen and fish are used to this sort of thing going on and didn't seem too put out. Many thanks to Sheila for arranging a very successful night out.

As St Peter's, Martley, will be celebrating 100 years next year since its last restoration in 1909, we are hoping to be involved if possible. Watch this space.

Kate King

Martley and District Horticultural Society

July, as always, brings us to 'Visit to a member's garden', and this summer we had kindly been invited by Barbara and Tony Kirby to their lovely stone barn home in Clifton-upon-Teme parish. The barn (a recently converted one) stands by the large old half-timbered Noak Farmhouse in a beautiful setting below hills of sheep-grazed old turf, woods and near a stream that flows along the little valley by the farm. A large planted stone trough looks just right by the front door, there are staddle-stones set in a low wall, an old driftwood-type tree stump with trailing plants; grasses and a herb garden, roses etc growing against the barn walls showing off the different coloured stones, and a large,

tastefully laid out, patio (complete with a birdbath and wooden ducks – one female has laid an egg!) alongside which Barbara has many perennials in flower – now well matured and thriving. Some raspberries, beans, magnificent tall mange-tout and other vegetable plants are grown too, and a sundial placed on a little bank basks under the protection of shrubs and more flowers.

Later we went inside where Barbara had got tea and a wonderful array of homemade cakes ready for us, and the usual ‘business meeting’ followed with plans for the forthcoming Flower Show. Thank you Barbara and Tony for a lovely evening.

September’s meeting is Thursday 25th and the talk is by John Edgeley – ‘Growing Vegetables.’

Tina Steele

The Sundial Memorial to Basil Haines

At long last, after many hold-ups, this project is underway, and it is hoped to have the sundial placed on the south wall of St Peter’s Church tower in the second half of September. David Brown of Somerton, Somerset took delivery of the stone in June, but had other work to complete including a Scottish commission. He recently called to check the site again and was planning to begin the work on 1 August. It is thanks to the many people who donated money to the sundial fund who have made this project possible, and it is hoped all visitors to the church will enjoy this

unusual memorial to such a highly regarded man for centuries to come. The dedication is planned for 28 September at Evening Service.

Pudford Lane

Following heavy rain in late July, leading to a run-off from a field behind one of the residences, the lawn was covered in muddy clay and kilos of potatoes. Rumour has it that a potato merchant’s business is to be started in the lane. Rumours abound this month. After a very interesting conversation recently about the loss of old practices and capabilities, it was suggested that

the art of hand milking is dead. So there may be classes arranged to revive this art with the use of water-filled Marigolds and



a lot of squeezing and pulling.

Many thanks to George Coombey-Jones for clearing the remains of the spray-tank from the lay-by. The Voluntary Lay-by Operative is finally binning all his sacks and hanging up his fluorescent jacket in total frustration. He clears the lay-by rubbish every 3-4 days into sacks. No one collects them and they are all split open by rats, foxes and human vandals and the contents strewn around again. We hope his efforts will be missed.

Kate King

Pensax Thrift Shop

Pensax Thrift Shop would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the fund-raising in aid of The Air Ambulance - the total to date is £1500.00

The next fund raising event is "The World's Biggest Coffee Morning" (with a cake and bring and buy stall) to be held during Thrift Shop on Wednesday 24 September between 9 and 11.15 am, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

For further information on Pensax Thrift Shop phone 01299 832388.

Martley Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the general meeting of Martley Parish Council held on Monday 7 July 2008 at the Memorial Hall

The Chairman welcomed everyone (plus 3 members of the public) to the meeting.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

Revd David Sherwin informed the meeting that it would be 100 years next year since the church was re-ordered and the balcony was removed, other alterations were made and the wall paintings were found. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to mark this centenary year with events such as a flower festival, art in the pews, personalised kneelers, Go West walks, and bell ringers writing and performing their own pieces to link with the possible reforming of Music in Martley. For anybody interested, there will be a

meeting on Wednesday 23 July in the church at 7.30pm, with another scheduled to take place in September. Revd Sherwin referred to a notice due to go in The Villager referring to dog fouling and chippings. He then confirmed that Severn Trent Water have offered to pay half of the costs that would be incurred in re-surfacing the car park used by the church, which is around £7500 to £8000. The church are looking at ways to fund the rest. People attending church have fallen in the car park due to its current state. This situation will be further improved when the churchyard lamp has been fully restored. Parishioners asked if the grass could be cut on the banks alongside the main road out of Martley from The Village Hall to the Pupil Referral Unit as it is getting dangerous. Parishioners reported the drain in Kingswood Lane being considerably blocked. Parishioners asked that the Clerk contact MHDC and the Lengthsman again in relation to the rubbish dumped in the lay-by on Hillside.

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2008:

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

Clerk's update:

1) Refuse bags and recycling bags should arrive by the end of the week. MHDC have apologised for the delay and have reported being let down by their supplier. MHDC have suggested that additional recycling sacks could be kept in Martley. The Clerk will add this matter to the agenda for

discussion at the next meeting.

2) The Freedom of Information Requests regarding Scar Bank and the footbridge should be answered shortly as by MHDC.

3) The results from Community Firsts Housing Needs Survey will be supplied to the Parish Council in a draft report within the next few weeks.

4) Have not yet been able to locate the contract with the Playing Fields Association. Records Office at County Hall is kindly looking for it.

5) Please let me have amendments to Councillor contact and other details (information currently on the website) (Circulated).

Highways Standard of Workmanship update:

Initial meeting was held with Highways and members of the local parish councils. Minutes of this meeting are to be sent to the clerks of the parishes represented. Cllr McHugh reported that Highways' only legal obligation is to fill the holes when they appear in the roads. They reported that they now have two lorries in Worcester County Council that have equipment on to measure a gulley's capacity electronically, therefore, by 2009 electronic information should be held to show which gulley is more prone to flooding. This will mean future clearance will be done by priority. The Clerk is to chase Highways for an update on all jobs that have been reported since August 2007.

Martley Pre-School

Martley Pre-School provided Martley

Parish Council with a detailed report, including a copy of the signed lease, insurance documents and an overview of their proposed future. The Pre-School have been quoted £2,600.00 for a new oil tank and installation. Cllr Cropp will liaise with Martley Pre-School in relation to grants they could access to assist with funding. Martley Parish Council agreed to support Martley Pre-School by purchasing the tank and/or looking at alternatives, i.e. leasing a boiler with a cost ceiling of £700 inc. VAT. A re-tender will be needed for tank installation. Cllr McHugh is to investigate further. A review of the Pre-School will be on the agenda for October's meeting.

Post Office Review process

Cllr Cropp provided a report - see Addendum 1.

Parish Council vacancy

MHDC received notice from Martley residents requesting an election. The election date is Thursday 7 August 2008. Nomination papers are available from the Clerk or MHDC and must be returned to MHDC by Friday 11 July 2008. The Notice of Election is on the big notice board in the village and at the Post Office.

Maps and Lengthsman Schedule

Councillors are to mark the map with gulleys and key points prone to flooding, both roads and property, within Martley. The Clerk is to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

District Councillor Report

District Cllr Mrs. Williams made a report – see Addendum 2. It was also

stated that free loft and cavity wall installation is still available for the over 70's.

County Councillor Report

County Cllr Mr. Davies supported the sharing of services between MHDC and WCC if it means savings can be made, i.e. using a shared payroll. He also confirmed that he had received an application from Cllr Rothwell on behalf of Martley Parish Council for a youth grant for support to YIMMS. It was also reported that Roger Woodward had retired and his replacement Steve Wheatley has confirmed that another crossing officer will be appointed for outside Martley School and further signage is also being organised.

Planning

There were no new applications. Pending: 08/00473/FUL & 08/00474/LBC Hill Top Farm – Garden terraces. Permitted: 08/00547/FUL Tree Shadow, Berrow Green – Integral carport to living acc. 08/00667/FUL Row End, Berrow Green – Single storey extn. & glazed walkway. 08/00678/FUL Rodge Hill Farm – Retrospective application for change of use. 08/00520/FUL The Willows, Church Lane – First floor en-suite extension. Refused: 08/00679/LBC Rodge Hill Farm – Retrospective application for general repairs and minor alterations

Finance:

There were 6 cheques totalling £1172.18 for agreement and signature. Cllr. Cropp gave a brief overview of the NEXUS grant and is going to a

meeting shortly to gain further knowledge. The Council agreed to renew the CPRE membership for a year.

Urgent Decisions since the last meeting:

Cllr. Cropp confirmed that he had authorised Fountains to reduce the chestnut trees along the B4197 as they were encroaching on electricity lines.

Councillor's reports and items for future agendas:

1. The Clerk is to contact the Clerk of Wichenford with regard to the overgrown hedgerow at Laugherne Hill.
2. The Clerk is to ask for the footpath to be cleared along the B4197 from the Memorial Hall to the gateway into the field.
3. Councillors are to find out why the flashing lights are no longer on at the school to indicate 20mph. Are they operated with a switch? Would it be possible to operate on a timer or by Officers at County Hall?
4. The Clerk is to organise a meeting between the Lengthsman and available Councillors to discuss the new schedule.
5. Parishioners had raised concerns through councillors regarding the trees on Badger Close. Parishioners will be advised to write to the owner directly to express their concerns.
6. Both Cllrs Rothwell and Hall passed their apologies for August's meeting.
7. The Clerk is to put a brief note in The Villager requesting owners of properties on Easing Hope Lane to trim hedgerows where overgrown.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on

Monday 4 August 2008.

For Addenda 1 & 2 please apply to the Clerk or see www.martley.org.uk/parishcouncil

SmartWater

SmartWater is a colourless solution that can be used to code all sorts of items. SmartWater is a revolutionary product that has helped cut crime by up to 84%! Martley Parish Council is co-ordinating a purchase scheme and are able to purchase the packs for £15.00. If you want to register interest in purchasing a pack in the future please return the slip on the flyer in this issue of The Villager to: Councillor Goodyear at Shingledale, Hillside, Martley, Worcester, WR6 6QN, or download the form from www.martley.org.uk/parishcouncil.

Easinghope Lane

For the Attention of residents of Easinghope Lane, Martley

I have been asked by Martley Parish Council to report that the Council has been approached by concerned residents of Martley who are finding it more and more difficult to see along Easinghope Lane due to overgrown hedgerows.

Therefore, Martley Parish Council would be grateful if residents of Easinghope Lane could arrange for the overgrown hedgerows to be cut as soon as possible. Kind regards.

Sally Williams

Clerk to Martley Parish Council

Tel: 01299 832949

Martley's Past

There would be few Martley residents who remember Mr Humpherson as schoolmaster. He was preceded by another long-term head – Michael Coleman, who was certainly head in 1863 and I know retired in 1893. Here are a few of his first recorded notes.

“1863 13 January. Second teaching day of year. Commenced morning duty at 9am. Dismissed at 12.15. Suspicion upon two boys playing truant. Send a scholar to inform parents of their absence. Cautioned children of all behaviour of any class would be registered and compared. The announcement apparently received with good effect. Afternoon duty 1.30 to 4.10pm

14 January. Rev G B Rowland gave a Scripture lesson to 1st Class. Punished 5 boys who drew upon slates laughable figures during repetition of Tables. Hung up in school New Routines. Duty from 9 to 12.10. Afternoon Mr Trearne brought his boy who had been playing truant 2 days. Duty from 1.30 to 4.10.

15 January. Morning duty 9 to 12.30. Afternoon 1.30 to 4.05.

16 January. Very dark morning only 8 boys present at 9 o'clock. Duty from 9 to 12.10. Examined 1st and 2nd Class together on Simple Addition by dictation. Result 55 per cent on 14 boys. Time 32 minutes. Afternoon examined same boys in same way in Addition and Subtraction. Result 64.3 per cent. Time 50 minutes.”

Alan Boon

Medals for the Girls

Martley and Wichenford are proud to honour local “girls”

Wichenford Land Girl receives her Medal

Well-known Wichenford resident **Joyce Wadley** has received her medal for her service to the Women’s Land Army during the war.

Joyce was based near Upton-upon-Severn with seven other girls at Lady Lechmere’s estate, where she greatly enjoyed the beautiful grounds. Although she joined just before her sixteenth birthday, she was soon engaged in farm work. Some of her time was spent with Don and Reg Fellows, who were contractors, and Joyce went from farm to farm with the threshing machine. Her job was to stand on top of the

Her job was to stand on top of the machine

machine and cut the bonds (the strings around the stooks) and to feed the wheat or oats into the machine. She has lovely memories of her time with the Land Army and of all the fun the girls had together. Joyce’s family were thrilled for her to receive the medal.

Margaret Johnson, who also lived in Wichenford for many years and is still a great supporter of the village, also received her medal. She served in the Land Army too and was based at Uttoxeter, Staffs. Her work at the Day Centre and other organisations is much appreciated. Congratulations to both these ladies.

Martley Land Girl Nellie Bradley

Nellie Bradley was already making her contribution to the war effort in 1942 by working in the aircraft industry in Castle Bromwich at the firm which made the first Spitfire fighter plane. But while accompanying a friend to the doctor’s surgery, she sat in the waiting room and read a magazine article about the Women’s Land Army.

“I thought that was what I wanted to do. My boss could have stopped me

because I was already in a reserved occupation, but he could see I was interested in it and let me go. My dad was quite happy – he was a country fellow – and I think

my mum was happy too.” So, in 1942, as she approached her 20th birthday, she left her home in Erdington,

Birmingham, and headed for Worcester.

Nellie, now 85, says she was the first WLA girl in

Worcester and was met at the train station by the farmer’s son who put her bike on the back of the car and drove her to the farm at Martley. She had no experience of agricultural work. “The first day I was there, the

... she was the first WLA girl in Worcester



Women's Land Army 1940, World War II
<http://www.superstock.com/stock-photography/Land/Girls>

farmer said he wanted me to weed the onion bed but I did not know which were onions and which were weeds.”

As a general farm worker, Nellie did a range of jobs from feeding the chickens, collecting eggs and cleaning them ready for market, to trimming the pulled sugar beet, picking apples, thrashing and feeding the cows. One of the daily jobs was taking the farm bull for a walk down the lane. “I had to take the bull for a walk. We had a farm bull and he could not mix with the cows so he was kept in the stable. He had a ring through his nose and we put a rope on it and took him down the lane for a walk. He liked it if you hummed when you walked him.”

Nellie did not take to driving a tractor and wasn't a total success with a horse and dray, either. On one occasion she was driving the horse and dray along the lane to take feed to the cows and met a Midland Red bus coming in the opposite direction. They both stopped and the bus driver got out to help to get the horse and dray into the field, while all the passengers watched.

Nellie found some aspects of country life rather basic compared to the city. “We had no electricity at the farmhouse and I had to go to bed with a candle. And the toilet was right down the garden. It was a hole in the ground.” But the food was very good and Nellie enjoyed an active social life. “The farmer's daughter was very much a village girl. She and her brother went out quite a bit and they took me. They used to have concerts at The

Chantry and there were regular whist drives and dances in the village.” She met her husband Jack in the village, and they married in Birmingham in December 1945 and continued to live in Martley.

Nellie enjoyed her three-and-a half years in the WLA, but feels the lapel badge in recognition for all they did, is about 50 years too late. “I was disappointed we did not get anything at the time. If we had it 50 years ago we would have appreciated it. I think the relatives of those land army girls who have passed away should be able to get them.”

(First printed in the Worcester press in August 2008)

Martley Harvest Celebration 2008

Saturday 4 October 7pm

at Martley Memorial Hall

***Tickets: Adult £7.50
Primary-school-age child £5.00***



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



Church Flowers

7 September Mrs Jill Williams
14 September Mrs Whyatt
21 September Mrs A Smith
28 September Mrs A Smith

Ladies Fellowship

The next meeting of the Ladies Fellowship is at Brenda Hadfield's home on 16 September at 2.30pm.

Church of England Children's Society

Supporters of the Church of England Children's Society in Wichenford raised the sum of £112 this year that was gratefully received. The Society gains by two million pounds from these boxes a year. A very worthwhile cause. Please ring 01886-888325 if you are interested in having a box.

Wichenford Fete

Record Fete

The sun shone for the fete and the record sum of £4,082 was raised for village organisations. This sum includes a generous donation. Over 60

people worked very hard to achieve this great result, and we were delighted to have new faces join in with our money raising efforts. We thank everyone for their time and hard work which made the fete such a profitable and happy occasion. Many thanks to everybody who made donations and gifts and to our superb cooks for the delicious cakes. We also appreciate all those who came to support the fete.

Thank you

A very big thank you to all the Tea Ladies who worked so hard and raised £330.35. Also to the wonderful generosity of all those who provided such lovely cakes.

Barbara Whyatt

Baby News



We are delighted to hear that Martin and Jenny Brian of Greenstreet Farm have a beautiful baby son, Toby. Many congratulations to them and to the proud grandparents.

Wichenford PCC

The Wichenford PCC will meet in the Memorial Hall on 15 September at 7.45pm.

An Apology

The Villager has learned that congratulations to Beryl and Cliff Sanders were a year premature – their Diamond Wedding anniversary is not until 2009. (But we also heard that a cake made in their honour has not gone to waste!) *The Editor asks that someone will remind her next year so that the congratulations can be repeated in a more timely manner.*

Nora Parsons Day Centre

Members and helpers had a very enjoyable spring outing on 12 May. We were very lucky to choose a beautiful sunny day and had a scenic ride to the Punchbowl near Bridgnorth where we enjoyed a lovely lunch. To raise funds the helpers had a stall at the Wichenford Bluesfest at the Masons Arm on 5 July. We also had a stall at the Wichenford Fete on 26 July. Thank you to everyone who supported us on a lovely day and helped us to raise £250. Thanks to the Crown Inn at Martley who donated a couple of prizes which we raffled.

For both occasions, we would like to give our grateful thanks to John Matthews for his extra (enormous) help in transporting the sales goods and tables to and from the Day Centre to the venues in his car and trailer. Also thanks to Tim Matthews for erecting his very sturdy gazebo that

kept us dry on the first occasion and in the shade on the second!

An Evening with Henry Sandon

An “Evening with Henry Sandon” is planned for Friday, 24 October at Martley Memorial Hall. Further details will be announced shortly but please make sure that you have the date in your diary. All proceeds from the evening will go to Nora Parsons Day Centre and St Richards Hospice.

Litter-Picking Working Party

The Parish Council are putting together a working party on 4 October to pick litter in the village. All equipment; gloves; jackets and bags will be provided. If you are interested and would like to join us for a couple of hours please call the clerk or contact any member of the parish council. The names and numbers of all councillors are on the notice boards. Hot drinks and Hot Dogs will be provided on production of your filled bag.

Wichenford 100 Club

Wichenford 100 Club July winners:
No 28 Georgina Britten-Long £85
And returned subscriptions to: 55 D I Rendall £12.00, 135 Banks £12.00.
Drawn by Marcia Beer

The oddity of the ball picking continues. If we had tried to do the following as a fix, we would probably never have achieved it. Having picked up a visitor from London, we returned via The Hill to drop papers in to Georgina Britten-Long, before returning home. That evening my

visitor was handed the 'black bag' full of numbered balls and drew out first of all Georgina's numbers and then next my husband's, who was sitting next to her! This is the second time this year that the drawer has picked a ball of someone sitting next to them or their spouse. What are the odds of doing that?

Wichenford Local Heritage Group Winter Lectures

The first lecture will take place on the 17 September and lectures continue on the 3rd Wednesday of each month until April.

Normal timetable Doors open for library: 7.00pm. Lecture 7.30 - 8.30pm: Break 8.30-9.00pm. Lecture 9.00- 9.30 p.m.

Enrolment on the 17 September begins at 7.00pm and continues until 7.45pm.

Charges are as follows:

Annual membership £5.00. Complete lecture package including all eight lectures, plus free palaeography classes plus a free church trip with Tim Bridges: £30 or £5.00 per lecture for members £6.00 for visitors

17 September:

H Rendall 1. Nottingham University - The Middleton papers

P Walker "The de Freville estates of Crow Nest and Rughall, Wichenford 1270- 1380"

E Fraser 2. Wichenford Churchyard

15 October:

Adam Mindykowski Uncovering a Hidden Landscape: LiDAR Survey in the Wyre Forest'

19 November

Deborah Overton All about Rabbits : Medieval Warrens

17 December

The Committee Christmas Fare of Yesteryear : Christmas Party

21 January 2009*

Stephen Price Tickenhall Manor, Bewdley - home to Prince Arthur and Katherine of Aragon

18 February

Tim Bridges Victorians in and around Worcester

18 March

Derek Hurst The Salt Trade of Droitwich

15 April*

H Rendall The Washbourne Archives in Wiltshire

P Walker William Washbourne's notebook and other fascinating papers

J Field

* These two dates may be swapped at short notice. Please check with the committee closer to the date.

Thank You from John the Post

How do I look back on fifty years of many happy times? The job was very fulfilling. I have made many friends past and present during my time with the Royal Mail starting my job as indoor messenger and moving on to telegram boy where I first came to Wichenford to a house called Malvern View. I moved to town deliveries in Worcester then to drive vans on rural deliveries: Bevere and Claines, Bransford and Rushwick, and later to Bishops Frome where I spent twelve

years, finally finishing up on the Wichenford delivery.

I would like to thank all my friends for the collection made for me, and Mrs Banks for the presentation made to me at Wichenford Fete. I love the framed picture of the post box and all the sentiments that went with it. I could mention all the names of friends that contributed to my collection, but you know who you are and I thank you all. I thank you for making me welcome in Wichenford and I will not forget the kindness showed to me. I will not become a stranger and will pop up like a bad penny. Thank you all.

John the Post, Wichenford

In the Garden



In the garden in September

September is a busy month in the garden, as it's the end of summer and we start to look ahead to next spring. In the flower garden, sow seeds of hardy annuals such as nigella where you want them to flower next summer. Hardy perennials like crocosmia can be lifted and divided and you can take cuttings of pelargoniums. Tender perennials such as fuchsias need to be brought inside before the first frost, but wait until after the first frost to lift dahlias and cannas. Now is a good time to clean out containers of summer bedding which have passed their best and replant with a winter or spring display. This is the best month for planting most spring-flowering bulbs (with the exception of tulips which should ideally be planted in November).

Try a small group of dwarf irises near your window; they give a welcome early splash of colour. Prune late-flowering shrubs and climbing roses. September is also a good time to move shrubs which are not well positioned. Evergreen hedges should get their final trim.

In the vegetable garden sow overwintering onion sets and protect with netting. You will also need to protect spring cabbage or the pigeons will ruin it! In the greenhouse, try sowing a few carrots in a tub now and you should have some baby carrots in time for Christmas.

September is a key month for lawns. As the weather cools start to rake out the 'thatch'; dead grass, moss and debris which has built up through the summer. Remove broad leaved weeds, seed any bare patches and apply an autumn lawn feed.

Looking for inspiration? or a Christmas present for a gardener? The Malvern Autumn Show is on 27-28 September.

JC

Waste not – want not

With gardens still growing well this month, including weeds, this is the ideal time to start transforming your garden and kitchen waste into an amazing soil conditioner, all for free!. A "greens" mix of hedge trimmings and lawn clippings is a good start, not forgetting to add some "browns" like cardboard toilet roll tubes, kitchen paper, egg boxes, crumpled newspaper, straw bedding from herbivorous pets etc. Starting now, you could be "harvesting" this valuable natural resource in about eight months, in time for mulching s next Spring.

Too many grass clippings? Try grass-boarding. Alternate thin layers of clippings with low-grade cardboard (corrugated is best) in the compost bin. This mixture should result in a lovely, crumbly peat-like compost.

AH



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

If back to school makes you think – ugh – already! then perhaps we have an alternative for you. On Sunday 28 September the churches of the Benefice, ie Martley, Wichenford, Broadwas, Knightwick and Cotheridge, along with other churches in the diocese, are hosting what is nationally called Back to Church Sunday. This still might make you feel Back to Church – ugh – then I would ask you just to give us a moment to think what this might entail. It may be that you used to be a regular churchgoer but for some reason stopped and have always intended to return but it's never quite happened. Maybe you haven't been except for baptisms, weddings and funerals since you were a child and often wonder what a "normal" Sunday service is like? Or maybe you just have never been a churchgoer? Whoever you are, this particular Sunday is designed for you. We want to offer you a welcome to any of the services that you will feel most comfortable at, whether that is a traditional service or a more modern service. We do cater for everyone. It may be that you will be formally invited by a friend who already attends church - then please feel free to accept their offer and come along with them. I know only too well that

going into some public places is easier when you have a friend with you. As you join us you may find a few surprises but I would like to think of this a little bit like when we returned to Anglesey for a family holiday where we hadn't been for a number of years. It was a delight to return. Some of the sights were the same, some things had altered, but making the decision to return brought benefits unexpected. I know it's not quite the same, but I think you get the idea. Why not come "Back to Church" on Sunday 28 September and see what awaits you.

God bless

David

Mission Partner Visit

It may interest you to know that at the beginning of October we are being visited by our Mission Partners, David and Heather Sharland, who work in the Sudan – they are a farmer and a nurse who work under very difficult circumstances to help people grow food and face difficult health issues. We will be hearing from them in our services on Sunday 5 October.

Church Services for September

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Mon 1 September | 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas |
| Wed 3 September | 10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley |
| Thu 4 September | 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford |
| SUN 7 SEPTEMBER | 8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.30am Worship All-Together, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge |
| Mon 8 September | 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at Rev Bruce Thomson's |
| Tue 9 September | 10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas |
| Wed 10 September | 10.15 Holy Communion, Heaton House |
| Thu 11 September | 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford |
| SUN 14 SEPTEMBER | 8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.30am Worship All-Together, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.30 am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas |
| Mon 15 September | 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley 7.45pm Wichenford PCC at the Memorial Hall |
| Tue 16 September | 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas |
| Wed 17 September | 10.15am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley 7.45pm Worship altogether Meeting at Helen Walker's |
| Thu 18 September | 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford |
| Sat 20 September | 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at the Admiral Rodney |
| SUN 21 SEPTEMBER | 8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.30am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10.30am Morning Worship, St Peter, Martley 3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel 6.00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford |
| Mon 22 September | 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford |
| Tue 23 September | 10.00 Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas |
| Wed 24 September | 10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House |
| Thu 25 September | 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 2.00pm Mother's Union at the home of Jenny Barton 7.30pm Film & Faith at St Peter's Martley |
| SUN 28 SEPTEMBER | 8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Worship All-Together, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Harvest Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley |
| Mon 29 September | 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Leonard, Cotheridge |
| Tue 30 September | 10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas |

Village Contacts



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|--|---|
| Editor of The Villager | Michelle Higgins editor@martley.org or 01886 888344 or leave articles at Martley Post Office |
| Advertise in The Villager | Vacancy. Contact 01886 888393 |
| Church | <i>Rector:</i> Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 or davidwin56@aol.com <i>Curate:</i> Revd Bruce Thomson—01886 888098 <i>Assistant Priest:</i> Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897 |
| Martley Parish Council | <i>Chair:</i> Dave Cropp—01886 888398; <i>Clerk:</i> Sally Williams—01299 832949 |
| Martley WI | <i>President:</i> Gwynne Darby—01886 888490 |
| Martley & District Horticultural Society | Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654 |
| Royal British Legion | Joyce Tyler—01886 821551 |
| Martley Ramblers | Harry King—01886 888439 |
| Path-or-Nones | John Nicklin—01886 888318 johnn@martley.org |
| Resource Centre | Alan Boon—01886 888527 |
| Police “Surgery” | CSO Matt Smith 7184—Martley Local Policing Team Tenbury Wells Police Station extn. 3581 |
| Martley Website | webmaster@martley.org |
| Martley Web Mesh | Richard Jackman—01886 821237 richard@martley.org John Layton—01886888460 johnl@martley.org Tom Pearsall—01886 888256 tom@martley.org |
| Martley Pre-School | Kath/Lucy—01886 889127 www.martleypreschool.co.uk |
| Wichenford contacts for The Villager | Janet Andrews—01886 888303 or Sheila Richards—01886 888378 |
| Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council | Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302 |
| Wichenford Wine Club | Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431 |

To have your organisation and its contact details appear on this list, or to change the details shown here, email editor@martley.org or leave a note for the editor at Martley Post Office.

And finally ...

The English Garden

See the flowers in the garden
Their colours are abound
Red roses climb the trellis
As they wind around and round.

The honeybees collect their pollen
To take back to their hive
The birds all come and sing their song
It's a sight so hard to describe.

The trees they grow so rugged
Their leaves so bright and green
They take so many years to grow
And truly are supreme.

Such colour, fragrance and beauty
That blossom there each year
The English country garden
It's a privilege to be here.

Original poem by Mary Kingan

Mobile Library—Wichenford

First Wednesday of the month.

Malvern View

10am-10.30am

Wichenford church

10.35am-11am

Kings Green Farm

11.05am-11.35am

Rosses Green

11.40am-12.10pm

Martley Library—Opening Hours:

Martley Memorial Hall, Berrow Green
Road, Martley, Worcs WR6 6PQ

Mon 2.00-7.00pm

Wed 4.00-6.00pm

Thu 10.00am-1.00pm

Fri 2.00-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-12 noon