

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 21 No. 9 February 2012

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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

Martley Parish Council: 1st Monday in the month 7.30pm in The Library

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling: 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship: 2.30pm

2nd Tuesday in the month (usually)

Martley Toddler Group: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (term time) 10.30am 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 p. 27 for details of services

See articles 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

Parish Council Minutes **Important Notice**

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. Details of which can be found on the Contact Us pages at the back of this magazine

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



Martley and District Horticultural Society

The Society had its usual stall at the Christmas Fair on Sunday 4 December and a satisfactory result was achieved. Thanks to all our members who manned it, and to those who donated items. The members' Dinner was held on 9 December and over 40 people sat down to an excellent meal of turkey, ham, lots of vegetables, trimmings and home-made puddings for dessert, and even cheese and biscuits too! Mike Dunnett organised a short game of bingo, and, as always, during the evening a number of thank you presentations were given to various people who have worked extra hard to make the Society's year a success. Members were given the programme diary for 2012 which looks most promising with a coach trip to Trentham Gardens on 14 July. Rev David Sherwin led the carols and it is hoped that the inevitable roar of 5 gold rings has not done too much damage to the Village Hall roof! The February speaker will be Derek Walker who will be talking about Tulips. We always welcome new members too –

so come along and join us!

Tina Steele

Martley WI

**Wednesday 8 February 7.30pm
Heaton House**

After a busy January meeting where we undertook beading with Helen and Pat, this month Val Patrick from Clifton WI will be telling us about Orkney. Although our funds are in a fairly good state, they are not enough to allow us all to travel first class to the Scottish Isle. So, let us sit back in comfort, no midges to bite us and be transported there by word and slide. Congratulations to Mary Kipping who is the winner of the Millennium Plate to hold for 2012 for getting the highest points in the monthly competitions for 2011. Our annual dinner will be at The Lion in Clifton on 22 February, names and numbers needed at this meeting; relatives and friends are always welcome to join us. Suggestions for future outings/meetings include various Federation events, a possible Make-over-Day with the House of



Fraser if Pat can arrange it and we would like to do some theatre visits. Watch this space for more details. Finally, Mary's lovely little handmade Santa decorations, plus some donations instead of Christmas cards, raised £71 for the Breast Care Unit, what a lovely amount raised and well worth all her hours of work!

Kate King

Martley Ramblers

12 February 1.30pm Church car park (to leave for Suckley to meet leader David Wilkes)

Here we are, already thinking about the second ramble of the season. David always prepares an interesting walk around "His" area of Worcestershire. Please note the earlier start of 1.30pm from Martley as there will be journey time to Suckley to consider and afternoons can still be dull with early dusk. The annual dinner will now be on Thursday 9 February at 7.30pm and not 10 February as previously announced as the Fox at Bransford are too busy to fit in parties on Fridays and Saturdays. It would help if Richard can have some ideas of numbers beforehand.

Kate King

Pudford Lane Tweets

When walking along the lane and puffing and panting at all the up-hills, one cannot help thinking about the labourers and stockmen who trudged along the sunken lane, often before dawn, on their way to work and wearily home again. Let us hope they

were able to enjoy the birdsong and the flowers along the verges. In much later years, before the plantations on Pudford Hill were in place, some of the Lane youngsters had wonderful times tobogganing down on an ancient Volkswagen car fender. Sometimes, if there was enough snow and speed could be achieved, the toboggan would take off over the bottom hedge and lane. Gill Holloway from Pudford Farm would often oblige by dragging the toboggan back up hill by a tractor. Some sons went down rolling in an old tractor tyre. Some of these tales are only now being told by very grown up sons. Thankfully, this parent never had to deal with any serious injuries, only rather sore bottoms! As the saying goes, "What the eye doesn't see . . . "!

Kate King

The Chantry School Visit to China.

Last year 23 Year 9 students went to China and had an amazing cultural opportunity. We had a return visit from their Chinese host school.



This year large number of Y9 students gave a grilling presentation in the hope of going to China, with other students from Stourport High School. Only a few were successful with their task and those students are now busy fundraising towards the cost of the trip. We have just had three Chinese teachers visit for a fortnight to experience the educational differences

and to experience The Chantry hospitality.

Pat Owen

Playing Field Update

The grant application has hopefully been sent off by the deadline. We have had some last minute problems but fingers crossed we will hear the outcome of our application by the end of March. Full details will be published in a future edition of The Villager.

Youth Club

Two Martley students, Scott Reaves and Bradley Phillips attended a Youth only forum recently to secure funding for the Youth in Martley. Thanks to their power of persuasion they managed to up the bid and secure £800 from a £1,000 pot. Scott said 'It was like being on the apprentice!' I felt so proud of them. This money will help set up the Youth Club, which will start with the secondary age youth first to get us started. At the Village Hall fair a local Youth worker came forward as a leader, so things are looking more positive.. However we still need more volunteers-even if not regularly. So if you are interested in getting involved in the Youth of Martley and doing something very rewarding, then please contact me at the school

Pat Owen

Wonderful Generosity

In these hard times it is very overwhelming to witness the

generosity of students and families of The Chantry School and Martley Primary school who continue to dig into their pockets to help others. Both schools have done incredibly well and have managed to raise an incredible amount of money by undertaking the following activities Children in Need raised a total of £755 which was split as follows: Martley Primary raised £122 and the Chantry £633. The National Poppy day was a focus of fundraising and Martley primary raised an amazing £119 and The Chantry £168 Martley Primary also had a church collection for Water Aid and raised £80. A fantastic achievement from everyone – thank you so much.

Pat Owen

Weighbridge Plaque

Has anyone noticed the plaque on the weighbridge? This plaque has been re-instated in its original position after a 30 year absence. In the past school children were brought down from school to read the story. Thanks to Doris Goodyear, Brian Draper, Alan Gosling and Alan Boon for reminding the village about this and making the effort to replace it.

Martley Parish Council

Martley Parish Council

Minutes

Abbreviated Edited Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5 December 2011 in Martley Library

Co-option of New Councillors

One application had been received for co-option. It was agreed unanimously that Mrs Mandy Gardner be co-opted to council. Mrs Gardner signed her acceptance and joined the meeting.

Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Williams forwarded a report in which she mentioned that the MHDC website improvements were going well. She also mentioned that MHDC had successfully prosecuted against an unauthorised planning consent. Localism Bill would be discussed at MHDC in February. The wellbeing of older people is a priority for MHDC. She was unhappy at the response from WCC regarding the recent oil spill on the Worcester-Martley Road. Council agreed to follow this up further with County Cllr A Davies. County Cllr Davies reported on his Divisional Fund decisions. He has been unable to grant the application from the Council for funding for security lighting however he has approved the application from the Memorial Hall.

Planning

11/01437/HOU

Oak framed timber garage with study space in loft, Hill House, Laugherne Park. Council fully support this application.

Progress Reports

Phone Box Adoption

After further investigation and discussion it was agreed not to go ahead with the adoption of the phone boxes at the present time due to possible costs.

Ankerdine Road, HGV usage

Ross Farm Machinery has replied to the clerk's letter saying that they have asked their hauliers to use the correct routes in and out of Martley.

Drains, Taylors Yard

The Clerk has obtained costs from Aqua Cleansing and permission from WCC and Council agreed to put this work in hand.

Hillside

This drain is being dealt with by WCC and work should be carried out shortly.

Diamond Jubilee

Discussion took place about Parish Council involvement in celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was unanimously agreed that the village should have some celebrations and the Clerk was asked to contact various organisations within the village to invite them to join in the planning. She will also check about the use of Berrow Hill for a beacon. This item will be discussed further in January.

Finance Committee Report

The finance committee report (previously circulated) was presented by Cllr Studer. It was suggested that the precept be set at the 2010-2011 level. This is to enable improvements to be made in the village and also to be prepared should government "cap" Parish Council precept levels. The committee had suggested that Council go ahead with the erection of a bus shelter outside Heaton House and this will be progressed. The committee also proposed that funds be transferred

from current account to interest bearing account. The report was agreed unanimously.

Finance

The payments as circulated were unanimously approved and payments made to the value of £1,033.66.

Correspondence

A letter had been received concerning the trees in the Millennium Meadow. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Millennium Meadow Green Trust as it was pointed out that they had agreed to remove these trees some time ago. With regard to the problem with sheep this is not the concern of the Parish Council and the farmer involved would need to contact the Trust. A letter had been received concerning a shed/workshop at High House appearing to be occupied. Clerk to contact MHDC

Recreation Association

The document itemising the amendments agreed to the lease was signed by the Chair and Vice Chair and will be issued to Martley Recreation Association for signature.

Lengthsman Duties

The Clerk reported again that the budget was healthy and Council needed to consider additional duties. The following suggestions were made, Pudford Lane grips and ditches, Horn Lane ditch and a discussion took place on various hedge trimming that is required in the village.

Councillor's Reports

Cllr Baxter reported on the Lighten Up Campaign where some timers for lights are available. Please contact the

clerk to check availability. Cllr Walker asked whether if we had intentions to prepare a village emergency plan as this is included in the Worcestershire Agreement. Cllr McHugh raised the problem of cars parked on the pavements in the village, the Clerk to contact Police. Two drains installed by WCC been removed, again the Clerk to contact Highways.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9 January in Martley Library at 7.30pm.

Martley Parish Council

Abbreviated Edited Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 January 2012

Democratic Period/ Public Question Time

The lack of a street name sign at Hill End Bridge Lane was raised. The organising of a new Youth Club in the village was discussed however it is proving rather difficult to find suitable premises as the Village Hall is heavily booked. The Community Transport initiative was raised and the Clerk will investigate this further. District Councillor Williams reported that she has been allocated a Ward Grant of £1,000. Any schemes that Council would like to propose would require a business plan. County Cllr Davies reported that WCC budget allocation from Government was down 8% more than expected. The final budget will be approved in February however there would be no increase in WCC Council Tax for 2012-2013. An

application for funding for transport has been approved at £19.5m and most of this will be used to improve the Southern Link roundabouts. He also talked about the Rural Community Broadband fund. Total investment will be £20m but matched funding will be required.

Planning

New

11/01530/FUL. Conversion and extension to facilitate one work/live unit at Willow Road, Martley. This application was discussed further. It was noted that some changes had been made however Council was minded to recommend Refusal to MHDC

11/01702/LBC and 11/01613/HOU/ The Barton, Berrow Green, Martley, after a discussion Council supported this application.

Approvals

11/01437/HOU, Hill House, Laugherne Park, Martley. Application approved.

11/01103/FUL/ Rogers Coach Garage, Martley. Application approved.

Progress Report

The drains at Taylors Yard have now been jetted by Aqua Cleansing and the Lengthsman needs to clear the ditch out for work to be finalised. The drain at Hillside is being dealt with by WCC and a works order will be raised shortly. The Hillside sign is still ongoing and the work on the Hope House Lane sign is due to be started week commencing the 9 January.

The Diamond Jubilee is to be held in June and some responses have been

received from organisations in the village. The Beacon requires repair and or replacement and the trees on the Millennium Meadow, both these items are ongoing. WCC are dealing with the Hollins Lane drain, the inspection of the trees in Church Lane and are also looking at some drainage problem on Ankerdine.

Bus Shelter Proposal, initial representations have been made to WCC and Festival Housing. After discussion it was agreed to try to source local suppliers for the shelter and in order to provide wind protection alternative types of shelter should be investigated.

Finance

The payments as circulated were unanimously approved and payments made to the value of £841.12.

Correspondence

The WCC Budget Consultation Briefing is to be held on Wednesday 18 January and Cllr Cumella will attend. The Clerk will confirm the MHDC Council Tax Precept which was agreed at the December meeting. WCC Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 was noted. Emails from WCC and a Parishioner concerning duplication of Berrow Green signs resulted in the Council being satisfied that the lower sign is to be removed. The MHDC, Draft Local List Supplementary Planning Document, Consultation. This is to be circulated by email by the Clerk to all Councillors for consideration at the February meeting.

Lengthsman Duties

The Clerk reported that the budget cannot be carried forward. Cllrs Goodyear and McHugh to meet with the Lengthsman on 10 January to draw up list of all work that is required in the village with a view to allocating resources to the specified jobs.

Superfast Broadband

Cllr Studer reported on the Broadband event he attended at County Hall. He advised that he felt that nothing could be gained in applying for funding at this stage.

Councillor's Reports

Cllr Walker reported that a road sign has slipped with the high winds. Cllr Gardner reported that the boarding around the electricity sub station on St Peters Drive has broken, the Clerk will report this. Chickens from Sand House were reported as causing traffic problems, the Clerk will write to the owner.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6 February at Martley Village Hall Library at 7.30pm.

Ferndale Singers

Christmas Concert

On the 10 December, in Martley, the Ferndale Singers, under the baton of their Musical Director, Merren Anthony, sang a selection of Christmas music, both well known and less familiar. As well as being entertained by the choir and enjoying the challenge of participation in six of the carols, the audience was also treated to two most amusing monologues, delivered by Dorothy

Capper. The first half ended with The Boar's Head Carol and, in the interval, each member of the audience was served with a slice of delicious cake, which had been most skillfully and realistically made in the shape and likeness of a boar's head, by Lynn Coles. This was the second of two concerts in 2011, both very well supported, which were arranged to mark the 25th anniversary of the formation of the choir. Each featured a raffle and, on this occasion, the marvelous sum of £250 was raised for St Richard's Hospice.

Chris Baker, 01905 333225

Martley Spurs Football Club Update Dec 2011

Only two matches this month for Martley Spurs starting with a fantastic 9-0 win over AFC Kempsey on the 4 December where Luke Willets scored 4 and Pat Jinks scored 2. We then played St John's on the 11 December where the result was a 3 all draw. Therefore Christmas finds us placed as 2nd in the Sunday 1st Division. The annual Christmas draw was held on the 10 December at Heaton House where we had 38 prizes donated. The lucky winners of the first 3 prizes were: £50.00, won by Mr M Morris, a bottle of Whiskey, won by B Wickens and a bottle of sherry, won by V Forty. Thank you all for your continued support and a full list of prizes and winners are available at the Sports Pavilion. Training sessions are held on Friday evenings at St Johns sports centre, new players are more

than welcome to join us, please contact Simon Rawle on 07971 264107 for more details.

M Gardner, Secretary

Martley Amateur Dramatics

February is a strange month, it used to be the cold one and now it looks as though we could revert to the old weather pattern so let us hope the Panto cheered you up in January! As we go to press the Panto will not yet have taken place so we would like to take this opportunity to thank the people whose efforts were essential to make it a success. First and foremost we thank Margaret Jackson who made most of the costumes, Margaret's dressmaking abilities and imaginative creations have been much appreciated by us all. We should also thank Robyn Andrews for her patience and forbearance in training the children, no mean feat we can assure you! Douglas Whittaker for his help with the adult rehearsals and Vanessa Searle for painting the scenery. Thanks also to Ian Underhill, whose welcome return to the local "Am Dram" scene was long overdue. The new cast members are to be thanked for their enthusiasm and the fact that they got it right. Particular thanks to the parents for supporting their children and helping with their lines etc. Last but not least to Ruth for once again writing and directing the Panto. Once again thanks to all those who were involved and also to you, the audience for your support. A full report on the production will be in

next months edition of the Villager.

Hello From Us!

Hello! May we introduce ourselves, we are Brian and Vicki Howard who moved to Martley in August this year after living in south-west France for a number of years. We are often asked 'why did you decide to leave France?' and the answer is clearly not for the warm climate and sunshine of Worcestershire. We left France with some reluctance but having lived there for 8 years it was time to come home and be closer to our family who live in the Midlands. We are now happily ensconced in a lovely bungalow in Hillside, just a mile from Martley, and enjoying the range of activities and outlets in this part of the country. Feel free to call on us if you are in Hillside and make yourself known. May we also take this opportunity of wishing all the readers of The Villager a peaceful and contented 2011.

Brian and Vicki Howard

Pensax Thrift Shop

Our lovely little shop will once again re open it's doors at 9am on Wednesday 7 March 2012 and every Wednesday morning thereafter untill December. The Thrift Shop began in 1975 with the objective to raise money for the upkeep of the Village Hall and after a number of years to refurbish attention moved to various other charities.. We have raised, since 1992, over £20,000. For information regarding Thrift Shop, phone Nerys on 01299 832388.

Martley Rights of Way

Worcestershire County Council (Countryside Services) have printed an A3 sized map to be delivered free to all households in the parish of Martley. These maps will show all the rights of way in the parish on an easy to use sheet. You will find the map useful in planning walks and surely find paths that you were not aware of. Only a handful of parishes in the county have been chosen for this project so many thanks to all those at Rights of Way for making this possible.

John Nicklin

Community Transport For Martley?



In areas where public transport does not meet the community's needs, it may be possible to establish 'community based transport services' which serve a group of parishes or villages. Routes and timings can be tailored to the needs of local people who can also get involved in running such services. Some ideas could include a minibus providing a demand responsive or timetabled service, a voluntary car scheme, a taxi bus operation or specific health centre or perhaps a hospital link. These initiatives can provide residents with opportunities to make a range of journeys in a variety of ways and can

be set-up by the community for the community. More information to follow in a later edition.

Pat Owen

News from the Chantry Library Learning Centre

Since our last newsletter, the library has hosted a talk and demonstration by Roy Fowler from the Barn Owl Conservation Group. He brought in birds and gave a small group of children the opportunity to learn more about these wonderful creatures. We were also privileged to welcome an 'animal man' from Malvern with his array of exotic pets. The children were able to hold and touch a variety of animals including a giant cockroach, a Thai frog, a giant rabbit, chinchilla and hawk. The card making club proved very popular and we are going to continue this on Wednesday lunchtimes. The library is, as always open to all from 8.30am until 3.20pm. Tuesday continues to be solely for the use of Year 11 pupils for revision and study and Friday is the film club.

Vicky Warr

01886 887100 ext 305

Baptisms

Seren May Mitchell-Hunt on 11 December 2011 at St Peter's, Martley

In Memorium

Rose Ruby Soden who passed away on 22 December 2011. Rose's funeral was held at St Peter's, with her burial at Great Witley, on 9 January 2012



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12 December 2011 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

District and County Councillors Report

Councillor Williams reported that work to improve the website is well underway. Some improvements have already taken place including the upgrading of our Google search function. We will now be improving the overall look of the main pages for each service area. MHDC has recently recorded a successful prosecution against the owner of land who had constructed a track without the necessary planning consent. The construction of the stone/brick track in a rural area designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural beauty was considered to cause serious harm to the visual amenity of the natural environment and as such contrary to planning policy. The government has delivered on one of its main promises following the general election. The new Localism Act, which received

Royal Assent last week, will mark a shift in power away from Central Government to local communities and is a major part of David Cameron's Big Society approach. We are setting up a Council Policy Group to examine the new Act and see how we can use it to best effect, prior to a detailed debate at our council meeting in February. The wellbeing of older people has been part of the Council's priorities for time now and much good work has been done. However, ahead of next year's plans, a review is taking place to collate all the work that has already been undertaken across the Council and to identify new plans which will contribute to the priority. Executive Committee agreed in principle to introduce a Ward budget scheme from the 1 January 2012 of £1,000.00, the scheme is currently being finalized, but Ward members allocate to specific local issues and priorities based on consultation with local communities. County Councillor Davies reported that the budget has been reduced by 7.8%. Council tax will not be increased this year. The

county is the 5th lowest band with a D rating of council tax. There is a big push to get broadband everywhere as swiftly as possible. A grant of £3.3 million plus £8.5 million of the councils own funds is available. 22 bids were received for the £45,000.

Progress Reports

Rosses Green Lane

Although the area in question looks very neat and tidy the Parish Council can clear the overgrowth.

Highfields

A letter has been sent to the electoral department at Malvern Hills regarding the confusion of properties at Kings Green and Highfields. This has now been passed onto the street naming and numbering department. The clerk is waiting for further communication.

Peg House Wood

The owner has now been identified and the Council will be writing to him shortly requesting if the overhanging branches can be cut.

Planning

The SWDP responses were sent in by Councillor Panton. The Chairman attended a meeting and the consultation period was extended. We do not have a settlement boundary in Wichenford and as we are considered to be in 'open countryside' will not come under any potential areas for development as we have no infrastructure. If we want to earmark any piece of land for development it is usually done by a housing association, as any houses built have to be offered at under market value for sale, or under rental value for rent. Any

houses that are built would have a section 106 on them which means they would only be available to local people.

Applications approved, refused, withdrawn.

11/01165/HOU

Sledgemoor House. (Approved)
Retention of the decking above garage and stairs

11/01240/FUL

Coronation Cottage. (Approved)
Erection of a boarding cattery which will consist of 18 pens

11/0298/HOU

Allsetts Farm. (Appeal dismissed)
Proposed extension and garage
The Parish Council has considered both of these applications and has no objections.

Applications to be considered

11/01604/FUL

Earth screen and landscaping at Laugherne Hill Wichenford.

The Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Mayfly Café

Various people have approached the council with concerns regarding the premises license for the Mayfly Café at the Cob House Fisheries. Concerns raised included public safety, crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance and protection of children from harm. In total eighteen properties have concerns and the Parish Council has written a letter on behalf of seven of them as requested.

Finance

The balance from 1 October to 30 November stands at £16,300.16. There

were 5 cheques which totalled £1743.36 for approval.

The Parish Path Warden asked if the council would purchase a strimmer which would clear the footpaths easier. The Council agreed to the purchase of a strimmer at a cost of £739. The Clerk was asked to check the insurance policy with regard to storage and also to make sure the strimmer is added on to the insurance.

Budget

Councillors' were sent a copy of last year's budget sheet to look at before the meeting which included expenditure to date. It was proposed to reduce the grants from £350 to £300. The Parish Council pay for the insurance for the Millennium Green and purchase items for the Day Centre and both of these are included in the grant figure, therefore, it was felt that it could be reduced.

Councillors' expenses were reduced by £50.

The budget for 2012/2013 was accepted and the precept request for £7000 will remain the same.

Memorial Hall Grant

A letter has been received from the Memorial Hall Committee requesting some funding from the Parish Council. This was discussed at the last meeting and as the Parish Council has still not received the invoice this will be put on the next meeting agenda.

Road sign at Highfields

A letter has been received regarding the recent appearance of a sign outside a property at Highfields. The sign is blue metal and is unnecessary as a

sign is already appropriately placed. The Council have been asked to contact the Highways Department to remove the sign or replace it with a more sympathetic looking sign. Councillor Rendall is going to check the status of the lane on the definitive map before highways are approached.

Councillor's reports and Items for Future Agenda's

The salt has been delivered and the Lengthsman will salt various sections of the village as requested. It was reported that a drain on Poplar Road needs jetting. Footpaths that have been cleared by the Path or Nones have been blocked. It is proving difficult to find out who owns the land they are on so it will have to go to the County Council to investigate. During the month that the vehicle Activated Sign was in Wichenford 6000 vehicles were recorded doing above the 30mph speed limit. This was only entering the village from the Holt/Ockeridge Road end.

Date and Time of Next Meetings

Meetings arranged for 5 March, 16 April (Annual Parish Meeting) and the 28 May (Annual meeting). All meetings will be held in the Memorial Hall Wichenford at 7.30pm, except the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 7.45pm.

In Memorium

Pamela Dorothy Webb, who sadly passed away on 18 December 2011. Pam's funeral and burial were held at St Laurence, Wichenford on 5 January 2012

Come Wine With Me!!

If you enjoy wine, and would like to know more about grape types and producer countries, I am thinking of setting up a Wichenford Wine Club. The format is for 6 or 7 couples to 'taste' wines informally in each other's homes, the host supplying the wines and splitting the wine cost amongst the tasters. Meetings would take place 6 times per annum with each host supplying food (simple fare) after the tasting. If you would like to broaden your palette with some likeminded local people, please email me at alanellis@btinternet.com or telephone 01905 641884

Alan Ellis & Annabel Lovesey

Wichenford 100 Club

The winners for the Wichenford 100 club December draw are 1st ticket number 151, Peter Harris, 2nd ticket number 200, E Cracker and 3rd ticket number 219, P Cox. The draw was made by Lydia Corbett. January's draw winners are: 1st prize, ticket number 17, Robert Johnson, 2nd prize ticket number 15 Ali Johnson and 3rd prize ticket number 99 Mick Harris. The draw was made by Matt Corbett.

Clair Corbett

Dial 101 For Your Local Police

101 is now the number to call your police on when it's not an emergency. Examples are if your car has been stolen, if your property has been damaged, if you suspect some drug

dealing is occurring or have information of a local drug dealer, to report a minor traffic collision or to give police information on crime occurring in your area.

How much does it cost?

Calls from landlines and mobile networks cost 15 pence for the whole call, no matter what time of day it is or how long you're on the phone for.

How does it work?

101 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information please visit www.police.uk/101

Remember; in an emergency always call 999. This is when you need immediate response because the crime is in progress, or someone suspected of a crime is nearby. 999 should also be used when there is a danger to life or when violence is being threatened or used.

CSO Helen W Cooper 40061

A Beautiful Tribute to Pam

Pam was born in July 1933 in Bexhill on Sea, Sussex, the eldest of six. They moved to Wales to avoid the possibility of invasion during the war and then to Hanbury in 1943. Pam spent two years at Bromsgrove County High school where she caught up by studying two years of work in just one. Her mother died when Pam was 15 and so to save the family from being split up she left school to look after her five siblings and her father. Her eldest brother and father were both killed in separate road accidents. The local vicar found them a council

house in Hanbury and she kept house and worked part time at Harris Brush Works as a telephonist and factory tour guide. She had a certain authority and crisp delivery which, I am told was still evident in PCC meetings years later! Pam met George at a party after a local Droitwich Pantomime, he played in the band and Pam was an ugly sister. George noted that her legs weren't the least big ugly and asked her for a dance. The rest is history. George was doing National Service then and on 4 and 6d a week pay, so couldn't afford an engagement ring. He offered to make one but Pam was not so impressed, so she lent him the £39 to buy one and extracted an IOU from him, in case their relationship fizzled out, and the change left over they spent on celebratory fish and chips in Worcester. After the army George reluctantly joined the Customs and Excise. They married in Hanbury Church and all the locals chipped in and the whole thing, reception and all, cost just under £40. Then they were posted to Montrose in Scotland where George, a rooky customs and excise officer, was put in charge of a small bottling bonded warehouse. It was winter and a foot deep in snow. Not being able to get home for Christmas they had a small celebration in their flat while Pam cooked the turkey. George meanwhile had smuggled a drop of two of smooth straight malt whiskey out of the warehouse. While toasting each other with this nectar Pam, for the first and only time in her life (except for an incident on a flight

to Italy, but that's another story!) got tiddly. George had to finish cooking the Christmas dinner while Pam sat giggling on the sofa, Pam never drank again and George never cooked! They travelled all over Scotland in their car, a Riley Kestrel, and had a terrific time. George hated the Civil Service and must have been a bit insufferable, but Pam eventually said, for goodness sake leave! He did and they brought their cottage in Wichford for £3,700. Pam was a keen gardener and strove to keep the perfect cottage garden, growing all their own vegetables for the next 40 odd years. Her days were spent gardening, bringing up their daughter Sally and doing the books for Georges metal bashing business in a garden shed. Neither of them wanted to expand the business, preferring to remain small and reasonably beautiful. So they settled into a happy routine lasting well over 40 years. Pam was active in the Church and was the sole warden for 12 years and was on the PCC. She was always out and about doing things and helping people. George's life was metal work so he spent most of his time in the shed, but they did meet up for coffee and meals! Pam's early experiences made her cautious regarding money and the security of a decent job, (they saved a pound a month when first married) but Georges bohemian outlook gradually rubbed off on Pam over the years and she eventually settled into the insecure life of the self employed metal bender with happy abandon. However she would scrutinize every bank statement

and when necessary tell George to stop fiddling around and make some money! She loved her children and donated to Children in Need, Barnados, the Leprosy Mission and the Salvation Army. She was moved to tears at pictures of unhappy and distressed children in foreign lands. She never gossiped and George, who rather liked it, often found out some juicy nugget by gossiping with friends, something that, he found out later, Pam already knew but wouldn't tell him! Apart from her banana skin sense of humour, she was that rarest of phenomena, a totally good woman. We all send our very deepest sympathy to George, Sally and family. Pam will be greatly missed by the whole local community.

Local Girl Raises £50 for Cancer Research

Ella Baylis, a pupil at The Chantry who lives in the village of Wichenford recently completed a 24 hour silence in aid of Cancer Research. A tough enough task for anyone to complete especially when you are normally a very chatty 12 year old! Ella arranged this independently and should be praised for raising much needed funds for this worthy cause. This is a true reflection of her selfless and caring attitude and in her words "wanting to help people suffer less" Well Done Ella!

Julie Baylis

In the Garden



The mild weather in December means some plants have made an early start into growth, so keep an eye on the weather forecast for frost warnings. February is usually colder than January and hard frosts are common. On the plus side, the days are longer and there is more sunshine. Pick a dry sunny day to get on with your pruning. Birds will soon be looking for nest sites so you should get the pruning out of the way to avoid disturbing them later. Most deciduous hedges can be pruned hard, as can yew and broad-leaved evergreens like laurel. Conifers like Leyland cypress should be lightly trimmed. Prune late-flowering clematis and late-flowering shrubs such as Buddleia, Caryopteris and Ceanothus, and, of course, roses. Trim winter flowering heathers and Jasmine as they finish flowering, and give grasses a 'haircut'. Keep deadheading your pansies and remove old leaves from hellebores. Indoors, prune back pelargonium's (geraniums) and fuchsias'. If not pruned now these older plants become very tall with all their flowers at the top. The pruning can be made into cuttings, why not raise a few plants for Martley Horticultural Society's plant sale! Prune passion flowers and repot or top-dress citrus plants. In the vegetable garden start preparing those seed beds. If you cover the beds with cloches the soil will dry out slightly

and also warm up. It is claimed that you can gain about three weeks growing time this way. Apply a slow release fertiliser about two weeks before sowing. If you intend to grow brassicas and you need to lime your soil, this can also be done now or at least two months before planting. Prune Autumn-fruiting raspberries down to the ground and apply high phosphate fertiliser. Remove the tips from very tall summer varieties to encourage side branches, which will give you more fruit. All fruit trees and bushes will benefit from a high potash fertiliser applied now as they start into growth. A slow-release fruit fertiliser is ideal, but you can buy sulphate of potash to supplement any general fertiliser. As well as growing strawberries in pots in the greenhouse, another way of forcing an early crop is to put a cloche over part of your outdoor bed. Open the cloche when the plants flower to allow the pollinating insects in. If you have time for a little armchair gardening, take a look at the BBC website, bbc.co.uk/gardening. You will find a garden design section with lots of planting plans, from borders to window boxes. Go On Be inspired!

JC

A Romp through Knicker history

A hilarious romp through the history of the humble knicker will entertain audiences in Worcester in March. Rosemary Hawthorne is The Knicker Lady and will be appearing at the John Moore Theatre, King's School, Worcester on Friday, 30 March at

7.30pm at a performance in aid of St Richard's Hospice. Her theatrical one woman show with Vicarage Productions looks at the history of underwear through the ages in a comic, unforgettable style which has led to sell-out shows across the country. Surrounded by old suitcases, boxes and hat stands, Rosemary delves through two hundred and fifty years of bloomers, briefs and bustles and presents the myriad of colourful characters that wore them, in a unique and enigmatic style of her own. Audiences are transported back to the muslin clad elegance of Jane Austen's England, the corset bound nineteenth century, the suffragettes and daring darlings of the roaring twenties. The Knicker Lady scrutinises, like never before, the liberty bodice, school knickers, the mighty Y-front and much much more... there isn't a brief left unturned! Rosemary Hawthorne is a classically trained actress, winning a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. In addition to being a RADA medalist, she was also awarded the coveted Costume Prize... which is where it all started. Rosemary cultivated her passion for unusual historical clothing and its sociological link to the last two centuries, becoming a well respected fashion historian. With little being documented about the history of underwear, Rosemary emerged as a leading authority. Tickets are £15 each and are available by calling the Fundraising Department at St Richard's Hospice on 01905 763963.

Helen Griffie, Comms Manager



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

How many pancakes can you eat? I suppose it depends which sort I mean, there is the traditional, the American and the Scotch, and many others I am sure. But pancakes are great fun and lovely to eat and yet so often we only eat them on one day. Traditionally of course the idea of eating pancakes for Lent was that we might use up ingredients that were not part of the fast period of Lent which was to follow. And people would then discipline themselves to a more frugal diet until Easter celebrations began. Pancakes of course, like baked potatoes can have many a filling, but unlike baked potatoes the filling could be savoury or sweet. What is your favourite? Having teased your taste buds and made you probably long for a pancake maybe its time to draw back and ask the question about the discipline of Lent and giving up things, and of the discipline of going without. It may be that this year people have had to go without because of the hard economic climate, but when we can decide to lay aside a luxury for a period of time as part of our prayer life it says a lot to God and about our faith. It perhaps flags up an intention or desire that backs up our prayers and shows God that we really do mean business and we long for him to answer our prayers.

We often hear people say I would have done anything if I could have helped someone. But one thing we can do is to show our intentions through prayer and fasting. Fasting does not necessarily mean complete abstinence but rather as in a diet, it may mean less for a time, and having been told that dieting is of benefit and we eat less, our body gets used to it, I am sure we would all agree that dieting is not bad for us, then the spiritual discipline of fasting "a spiritual diet" has its purpose also. Enjoy the pancakes and see if you can break the world record, or maybe not! And in that season of Lent perhaps each of us can find some way of living more frugally and praying more. Jesus himself showed us that example as he went into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. Tempted as he was he resisted the Devil and won a victory over him. The Bible tells us that when we are weak we are strong, so in our weakest of prayers may we find strength for the road ahead.

Every blessing to you all as we walk that road in Lent to the joy set before us that is Easter.

David



Wed 1 February 12 Noon Prayer at the Heart, St Mary and St Andrew, Knightwick
 Thurs 12 February 12-2pm Lunch in Company at Broadwas Village Hall
 Sat 4 February 9.30am-1pm PCC Away Day – YFC, Hawford
Sunday 5 February 8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary & St Andrew, Knightwick
 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
 10.30am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley
 10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
 Mon 6 February 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
 Tues 7 February 10:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Chris Woodburn, Berrow
 View, Hollins Lane, Martley
 Wed 8 February 10:15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
 Thurs 9 February 9.15am Little Minnows – Love
 Fri 10 February *Schools Close for Half Term Holidays*
 Sat 11 February 10am-2pm Wedding Preparation Session, Broadwas Village Hall
Sunday 12 February 8:00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
 10:30am Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
 10:30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
 10:30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 Mon 13 February 8.30am Prayer Breakfast
 Tues 14 February *Valentines Day*
 10:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Chris Woodburn
 Thurs 16 February 2.30-4.00pm Tea Party at Heaton House
 Sat 18 February 8.30am Mens Breakfast at The Talbot
Sunday 19 February 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, St Mary & St Andrew, Knightwick
 4:00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence Wichenford
 Mon 20 February *Schools Re-open*
 9:00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
 Tues 21 February Pancake Day
 10:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 7.00pm Pancake Day Social at Broadwas Village Hall
 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Chris Woodburn
 Wed 22 February Ash Wednesday
 10:15am Holy Communion Heaton House
 7.30pm Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
Sunday 26 February 8:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 9:30am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley
 10:30am Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 10:30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
 6:30pm Evening Worship, St Peter Martley
 Mon 27 February 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 Tues 28 February 10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
 7.30pm Bible Study Group at the home of Chris Woodburn
 7.30pm LTV PCC Meeting at Knightwick Village Hall



Village Contacts



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Wichenford Local Heritage Group	Heather Rendall—01886 888239
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To put organisation and its contact details 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 ...

Farewell and Thank You All

After 5 years at The Masons Arms Andy & Suti have little choice but to move on. Family matters in Thailand and Australia have unfortunately deteriorated leaving no option but to sell and move. So it is with a sad and heavy heart we must say a fond farewell to all our friends old and new and all our patrons over the years and wish you all a long and peaceful happy life. We will move on the 6th February with our last trading day the 4th February. To say a special Thank you to you all we are holding a "Farewell Party" at the pub on Wednesday 1st February so please pop along to say goodbye, taste our wonderful Thai food and dance your socks off to the greatest Rockabilly band on the planet, The Delray Rockets. You have all been wonderful and please give your full support and help to Laura and Nibs and their three young children who intend to make Wichford and The Masons their home. Thanks for the memories we will miss you.

Andy & Suti

