

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 15 No. 7

January 2007

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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:

Tem Valley Farmers Market for local produce 11am The Talbot, Knightwick

Martley Ramblers meet Church carpark

2rd Sunday in the month:

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

Mondays

1st Monday in the month: Martley Parish Council 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling 2.30pm Martley Memorial Hall (2pm winter months)

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

Wednesdays

Tem Valley Shufflers Line Dancing
7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

Martley Folk Club: 1st Wednesday in the month at The Admiral Rodney

Martley WI: 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm Sport Martley

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

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

Other events:

Citizens Advice Bureau Tem Valley

Telephone Service: Mon & Tue 10am—3pm Thu 10am— 7.30pm **Great Witley & Knightwick Surgeries:** Weds 10am - 4pm - by appt. 01584 810860

See Church Words for details of services

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

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

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



Here we go a wassailing

New Years' past

January was established as the first month of the year by the Romans. It was named after the god Janus, (the latin word for door). Janus had two faces that allowed him to look backwards into the old year and forwards in the new one at the same time. He was the “spirit of the opening”.

In the earliest Roman calendars there were no months of January or February. The ancient Roman calendar had only 10 months and the new year started on March 1. To the Romans, 10

was a sacred number. Even when January was added, the New Year continued to start in March 1. It remained so in England and her colonies until about 200 years ago.

The Anglo-Saxons, meanwhile, called the first month Wolf monath because wolves came into the villages in winter in search of food.

First footing

In the old days, the New Year started with a custom called first footing, which was supposed to bring good luck to people for the coming year. As soon as midnight had passed and January 1 had started, people used to wait behind their doors for a dark haired person to arrive.

The visitor carried a piece of coal, some bread, money and greenery. These were all for good luck – the coal to make sure the house would always be warm, the bread to make sure everyone in the house would have enough food to eat, money so they would have enough cash and greenery to make sure they had a long life.

The visitor would then take a pan of dust or ash out of the house, which

signified the departure of the old year.

Flat cake

January 1 was a significant day in medieval times, concerning prosperity or the lack of it in the year ahead. A flat cake was put on one of the horns of a cow in every farmyard. The farmer and his workers would then sing a song and dance around the cow until the cake was thrown to the ground. If it fell in front of the cow that signified good luck, to fall behind indicated the opposite.

In Saxon times, January 2 was considered one of the unluckiest days of the year. Those unfortunate to be born on this day could expect to die an unpleasant death.

The first New Year frost fair was held on the frozen river Thames in London in 1608. It had tents, sideshows, food stalls and even ice bowling.

Wassailing

Wassailing has been associated with Christmas and New Year since the 1400s. It was a way of passing on good wishes among family and friends. Wassail is an ale-based drink seasoned with spices and honey. It was served from huge bowls, often made of silver or pewter. The Wassail bowl would be passed around with the greeting 'Wassail'.

Wassail gets its name from the Old English term "waes hael", meaning be well or good health. It was a Saxon custom that, at the start of each year,

the lord of the manor would shout 'waes hael'. The assembled crowd would reply 'drinc hael', meaning 'drink and be healthy'.

As time went on, the tradition was carried on by people going from door to door, bearing good wishes and a was-sail bowl of hot, spiced ale. In return people in the houses gave them drink, money and Christmas fayre and they believed they would receive good luck for the year to come.

The contents of the bowl varied in different parts of the country, but a popular one was known as lambs wool. It consisted of ale, baked apples, sugar, spices, eggs, and cream served with little pieces of bread or toast. It was the bread floating on the top that made it look like lamb's wool.

Christmas fair

After a week of blustery wet weather, the sun showed its face and shone on the Village Hall for the annual Christmas Fair. Mulled wine and mince pies welcomed local people to the beautifully decorated hall. They moved on to buy holly, mistletoe, cards, colourful wrapping paper, cakes and other goodies, guess the weight of a cake and buy raffle tickets, which all helped to raise £505.85 for the Memorial Hall funds. The Committee wishes to thank everyone who donated things and those that helped in any way.

Beth Williams



Martley Spurs

November started off with the Saturday Premier side sharing the top spot in their league

table with less games played than their opponents. However, they did lose on the fourth. Saturday the 11th produced a much better result in a very high scoring match beating VBL Sports 6-4. Chris Collins netted a hat-trick and Sylvester Morris added a pair. The next day the Sunday Premier eleven won their away game against Droitwich Spa by three goals to nil.

A further win came for the Saturday team on the 18th when they overcame The Talbot 2-1. The 19th was dedicated to the Katherine Rayer Cup, the Sunday Premier eleven beat Blackpole 4-1, two of these netted by Richard Taylor. But the Reserves lost their game with Arrow 2000.

The final weekend of the month left both the Saturday and Sunday Premier sides with no fixture; however, the Reserves played on Sunday morning and beat The Bridge 6-3, Bob Baker and Steve Prickett both bagging a pair.

Beth Williams

Helping hands

Christmas has come and gone, all the wrapping paper has hopefully gone to be recycled and thanks have been given. But how many of those beautifully wrapped and ribboned packages contained some sort of gadget which, after the initial trials, eventually end up in the back of a cupboard or drawer?

I mean all those well advertised things to save time and make things easier for us, which we use a couple of times, and then revert to the old fashioned knives, hands, forks, etc.

All those bread makers, electric vegetable peelers, super coffee makers, lean grill machines. How often do we use all the odd bits and parts on our "kitchen Wizard" – slicers, juicers, graters, electric knives and whisks when they all need getting out, setting up, washing and cleaning then putting away, when a knife, a fork or a frying pan will do equally well?

How many coffee bean grinders, fat burning treadmills, battery operated "putt returners", ice and rock salt ice cream makers (a ball to be kicked around the kitchen floor, apparently this churns it for you), 12 language translators, garlic crushers, bread slice adjusters, veggie wedgers, spider catchers are all lurking in the back of some cupboard?

Think of all the things on offer to help garden lovers and all the Swedish and Japanese gadgets that will massage their aching limbs. Dog lovers might get a "treat launcher" for shooting dog

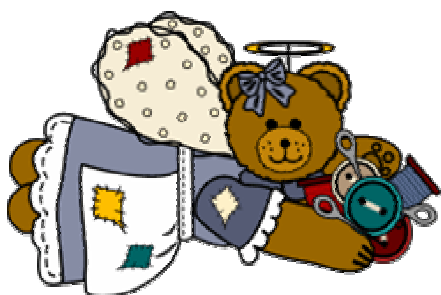
biscuits at Lassie or Bonzo, or a shaver sharpener, a mini vacuum cleaner to de-wax your ears, and, if you have really rich friends, you might get a great big motorised turntable to park your car on, thus avoiding reversing, at the touch of a button.

Gadgets can make things easy, but they can let you down. Some years ago, before they started using ring pulls, I had an electric tin opener.

During a long power cut I decided to heat up a tin of soup on my emergency gas camping ring, only, to my dismay, did I then realise I did not own an ordinary hand held tin opener.

I learnt my lesson, gadgets are great, hands and fingers, knives and forks, etc are better.

Beth Williams



Pre-School snippets

After the festive break, the children are now pursuing a variety of activities based around Nursery Rhymes. They will also be continuing with the letter of the week. From acorns and apples to feathers and flags, the children (and their parents!) have been very inventive!

Exciting news – we are on the Forest School waiting list. This will eventually involve attending the Forest School centre every week. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children and something we are very proud of.

Congratulations Corner: Birthday wishes to Harvey Bowen who turns four this month and to Maxim Richards who turns three. We hope you both enjoy your special days!

The Pre-School accepts children from the age of 2 (nappies no problem). From the term after the child's 3rd birthday, five sessions a week are government funded.

Pre-School is both a valuable experience and excellent preparation for primary school in many ways: it allows children to develop social skills; prepares them for following routines; promotes independence; and exposes them to structured time spent away from home.

All this is achieved in a caring, colourful environment with highly qualified staff and exceptionally well-resourced outdoor and indoor areas. If you are interested in a place for your child, call the Pre-School on 01886 889127. Don't forget that we also offer Breakfast & After-School clubs too (ages 2 to 13).

Sue Gibbins

Martley & District Horticultural Society

On 30 November, the Society held its AGM in the Village Hall. Our retiring president, Richard Webb, welcomed us and talked of his happy memories and of all the Society had achieved over the years, especially the two Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medals. He thanked everyone for their hard work, mentioning particularly the chairpersons, secretaries, committees and programme organisers since the Society was formed 30 years ago. Richard said how very much we shall miss Jack Bradley – he had done so much to help for so long.

Barbara Kirby (retiring chairman) thanked Richard and all concerned for making the Society such a success. She reported on the year and listed all that we had done and how the various meetings and events had been enjoyed.

We are very grateful to Barbara, who has worked so tirelessly for the Society, also particularly to Ray Ellis who has done a wonderful job as Vice Chairman, to Pam Minchin and Margaret Jackson our joint secretaries, and to Judith O’Leary and Sylvia Jefferies as previous Secretary and Show Secretary respectively; Rena Davidson our very efficient treasurer, and Nellie Bradley has been so faithful doing the raffle. Pauline Ellis is show secretary and that means the show runs really smoothly!

After the business part was finished, a delicious buffet was spread out and

was enjoyed by all, including several former members, as it was a reunion party complete with a 30th birthday cake!

Barbara Kirby presented Richard Webb with a framed drawing of St Peter’s Church as a memento for his years as President. Reg Snow, a founder member, told of how the Society was born – in a (smoked filled?) bar over more than one pint in the Masons Arms. From small beginnings . . . What about joining? Last Thursday each month, great meetings.

Lastly, we wish Hazel Barnard ‘get well soon’, and are very sorry to report that Gill Pettitt, who lived at Rose Cottage (by the church) died suddenly at her home in Carmarthenshire on 3 November. She was a former member, a delightful, quiet lady who loved flowers and her garden, and helped arrange flowers in the church at Festivals. Our deep sympathy to Roger and daughter Lyn.

Tina Steele

Martley WI

*Wednesday 10 January, 7.30pm
Heaton House*

The recent AGM was a busy and enjoyable evening as they always are. The committee was returned *en bloc* with Gwynneth Darby remaining as president, Mary Kipping secretary and Chris Campbell treasurer. Pauline Briggs told us about the various mandates proposed by National Federation during the years of the existence of the WI movement. Most have been suc-

In the Garden



Some hard frosts this month will be beneficial to the soil, but clayey ground will be improved by adding garden compost, sand and wood ash, as well as fresh manure. Plaster it all on and dig it in when dry enough. Well rotted manure will enrich light soil. Root-prune young fruit trees that are making luxuriant growth and bearing little or no fruit. Prune climbing roses. Sweep worm casts off lawns when dry enough and follow this by rolling.

An old-fashioned dressing for the grass was a mixture of fine soil, decayed manure and wood ash, it would

disappear in a week or two. Plant fruit trees, other trees, shrubs etc on milder days if the ground is not sodden.

Wash the greenhouse glass and clean the structure thoroughly. If it is heated, various vegetable seeds can be planted in pots – study the books! (Broad beans can be sown outside in a very sheltered area – pick the earliest variety). Insert cuttings of Perpetual Carnations. Shake out old compost and re-pot roots of Gloxinia. Set seed potatoes on end in shallow boxes on a cool, light shelf. Watch for Botrytis (grey mould fungus disease) on Winter lettuce. Protect Hydrangea buds from frost, put dry peat round Passion Flower roots. Rake away fallen leaves from rock plants, herbaceous borders and anywhere slugs can lurk.

January is a good month to construct new garden features, such as rockeries, flowerbeds, wall and paths.

Tina Steele

cessfully followed up, but the re-introduction of turnstiles in public toilets seems a retrograde step. Out with your banners of protest, ladies. The evening finished with homemade biscuits and games. Jacqui Wenman has prepared a most interesting and varied programme for 2007, and we start on 10 January with a talk by Mrs J Hearne on aspects of the Titanic. The competition is for an old English coin. Do come and join us at 7.30pm at Heaton House.

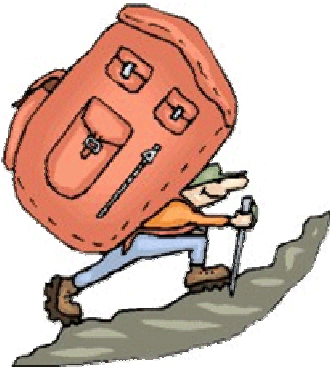
Kate King

WI tip of the month

To remove stains from (even your best) china.

For stains on china, make up a paste of salt and warm water and rub on to the stain with a cloth. Leave for a few minutes then rinse with clean water. Your china will be as good as new. For stubborn stains leave overnight before rinsing.

(Mrs M Griffiths, Hon Sec, Ditton Priors WI)



Martley ramblers

*Sunday 14
January 1pm
Church car
park*

At the recent
AGM the

Chairman Harry King and Secretary/Treasurer Pam Bowers were both re-elected. The chairman reported on walks and attendance during 2006. The treasurer reported a small drop in membership and a small deficit in income. It was decided to keep the membership fee at £1 with £2 per family, as there is a healthy bank balance. Mabel was awarded to Helen and George Coombey-Jones to hold for a year as their 2006 walk received the most number of votes for interest and venue ... The voting was very close. It was agreed to have some morning walks and some afternoon ones, so members will have to check with The Villager or their programmes.

The second Sunday in the month remains. The annual dinner will be in February, venue to be confirmed. Members were keen to offer to lead walks in 2007 and the programme looks very interesting. The season starts on 14 January to follow Harry King around local areas that will be decided according to weather conditions.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

Interesting reports in National newspapers cite cases of higher than average house prices in spa towns such as Tenbury and Buxton. With a view to future house sales and as Pudford Lane can be wet and watery, this could be a good time to pursue plans for a Pudford Spa, probably somewhere in the vicinity of the junction of Hillend Bridge Lane and Pudford Lane. Think about it.

Recent finds by the lay bye operative included rubber gloves, and four deodorants for men. Perhaps some chap clearing out his bathroom cabinet ready to receive fresh Christmas presents. We hope he was not disappointed. There were no socks or ties. The operative did not fancy the type of deodorants present. Other rubbish included numerous vodka bottles (NB litter dropper. There are bottle banks in the Crown car park). Also a pile of girlie magazines – but no partridge in a pear tree.

Kate King

Martley's past

There were occasional problems with the Union Workhouse, one of which caused the Parish Council to call a Special Meeting on Friday 25 October 1907:

Min 2 – “To consider an Order from the Local Education Authority to admit the Workhouse Children into the Parish Elementary Schools”.

Min 3 – “Mr George Rowley proposed

and Mr George Jones seconded ‘That a letter be sent to the Guardians, asking them if they could not arrange to Board the Children out in the respective Parishes to which they belong on attaining the age for going to school’. This resolution was Carried Unani-

mously.”
Min 4 – “The Rev JF Hastings proposed and Mr WB Rowley seconded the following resolution: ‘We the parishioners of Martley beg respectfully to protest against the Children of Martley Union Workhouse being



Design for life

For staff at Martley Primary School, Christmas came early when teacher Lynda Jones brought in her individually designed brooches and scarves for a special pre-yule sale.

Lynda’s passion is art and design, which she studied at university. She continues to create her unique, handmade products as a hobby when she gets time out from school (mainly during the holidays and not, she emphasises, during term time—perish the thought, *ed*).

Nevertheless, Lynda’s hobby has been a hit with fellow teachers and staff at the school, who flocked to her designs. She has no plans to set up her own business, but will continue to produce and sell her creative wares to family, friends and anyone else who’s interested.

Lynda: “When asked what I do, I reply that I’m a surface embellishment

technician, an experimentalist and embroiderer.

“I have always been obsessed and passionate about all that is textile and love to be surrounded by the rich qualities of fabrics and threads.

“Colour and pattern form the basis of my work and I use the sewing machine to collage and manipulate fabrics to represent the world around me. “I delight in exploring the diversity of available embroidery techniques and incorporating them in my work.

“I mainly use free machine embroidery and hand stitching to create scarves, brooches and wall hangings .”

Lynda exhibits her designs in the Blue Ginger gallery on the Hereford Road.

If you’re interested in Lynda’s designs give her a call at Martley Primary School: 01886 888201



transferred from their own school in the Parish Schools of Martley as it might entail upon us the Erection of New Schools, and would be a waste of the Accommodation at the Workhouse, which the Parish of Martley helped to provide.” (The question of money raises its ugly head!)

(Just to confuse matters, Min 5 stated, “Mr D Jenkins proposed and Mr James Rowley seconded “That the children should be allowed to go to the Parish Schools.””!)

(Note: Less than 3 months after this meeting, on 6 January 1908, the first group of Workhouse children were admitted to the Parish School.)

Another special meeting of the Parish Council was called on Tuesday 13 July 1920 on a question concerning Workhouse children.

“The Chairman read a circular letter from the Clerk to the Guardians re: the removing of children over 3 yrs of age from the Workhouse.”

“Mr Humpherson (schoolmaster. ALB) proposed a resolution to support the Guardians in their application to retain the children in the House, it being in the best interests of the children to do so. Mr W Holliday seconded; carried unanimously.”

The Clerk was instructed to send the following resolution to the Clerk to the Guardians. “At a Special Meeting, duly called, it was unanimously resolved to support the Guardians in their application to retain the children in the House, it being in the best interests of the latter, as affecting in par-

ticular their health and education and for the convenience of the parents when wishing to visit their children.”

A L Boon



Medieval tales

'Merlin' visited Martley C.E. Primary School at the beginning of Advent. He came to share a mixture of medieval stories with the children (and the staff!). The older pupils were treated to tales about King Arthur's knight Sir Gawain and spent time in workshops studying aspects of medieval life: maps, knighthood and the agricultural year, including the learning of a specially written song. The younger pupils heard tales of ancient fairies and Arthur's knights. The stories were interlaced with music from harp and guitar.

This Merlin, aka storyteller Robin Sharples, is also working alongside local churches and groups of volunteers as they develop material for the story boxes that will go into six local churches (including Martley and Shelsey Walsh churches) next June.

The boxes in specially designed listening posts will introduce the story of church and parish over the centuries. The National Lottery Fund is funding 'Stories from the Stones', a pilot project organised by the Go West Teme Valley Project. Three local Primary schools—Martley, Lindridge and Broadwas—are involved; they have been invited to work with Kevin Crossley-Holland's book 'Arthur: The Seeing Stone' to help bring to life the period when so many local parish churches were young.

This book, set near the River Teme at the time of King John's accession, tells the tale of a young lad called Arthur (not King Arthur) and the mysterious Merlin who lives in his village. Through Merlin's visits the children will be encouraged to appreciate the reality of medieval life and to ask challenging questions about such matters as social relationships and personal development.

The author, Kevin Crossley-Holland, has been involved in the project from the beginning (including the writing of the song!). The children will have a further day visit from Merlin in the summer when he will invite them to a special day at Worcester Cathedral in July 2007. Their experiences will be used to help other children to better understand their parish in the past.

In the meantime we thought that it was rather unfair that only the children should get to hear these ancient tales - especially as they were originally composed for adults. So we have arranged three evening performances

from Robin (Merlin) for more mature audiences. The Martley performance is on February 9th 2007 at the Village Hall. The evening starts at 7.30 p.m. and costs £5.00 - including nibbles and a glass of wine. Tickets are available from Martley school or ring 01531 630215

So put the date in your diary and come along to step back in time for a rare chance to hear some ancient stories from the time of King John and before - all woven together with original and traditional tunes on various instruments.

From the volunteers of Go West Teme Valley Project.

For more information about Stories from the Stones visit www.temevalley.org.uk

Worcestershire Association of Carers News



The Worcestershire Association of Carers has a new project - developing support for local carers.

Helen Garfield has recently joined WAC as Carer Support Development Worker, using money made available from the Worcestershire Neighbourhood Network project.

At the moment she is finding out what is already available and getting to know people.

Useful snippets

Did you know that now the entitlement to Carers Allowance starts from

the same day that the Disability Attendance Allowance starts for the person being cared for? To benefit, you must claim within three months of the notification of the DLA/AA. People on certain benefits can get £40 worth of free low-energy lightbulbs from Powergen. Qualifying benefits include Disability Living Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and Pension Credit. To claim your four free low-energy light bulbs, send your name, address and details of your qualifying benefit to: Free Light Bulb Offer, Powergen, FREEPOST, PO Box 7, M19 2HD. Contact a Family – a charity for families with disabled children is using the web to help parents of disabled children get in touch with each other. For more information visit makingcontact.org.

Did you know that the new Work and Families Act, which comes into force in April 2007, introduces the right for carers to ask for flexible working? Watch out in the press and other media for more information.

Contact Worcestershire Association of Carers on 01905 26500 or mail@carersworcs.org.uk

Help! I'm a computer user

Martley Web Mesh (MWM) is starting an online help line for beleaguered computer users in the Martley and Wichenford area.

MWM provides broadband access to the Internet for £12 a month, plus the cost of initial installation, which is currently £100 for standard installa-

tion. MWM is run by volunteers and, yes, we do admit to having had teething problems, but as experience and the number of subscribers grows, the service goes from strength to strength. Backup delivery systems mean that the service is increasingly robust and reliable, barring unforeseen circumstances, and we can offer free email as well.

The (very small) team of volunteers who run and install the system and the Martley website are always looking for new opportunities to raise money from grants and the more subscribers there are to the system means the more income there is to spend on upgrades and new equipment. So if you've tried the rest – put us to the test!

If you are reasonably fit, don't mind heights, can use tools such as a screwdriver and have a bit of spare time during the day, you might like to consider helping install the roof aerials for the mesh system.

At the time of writing, we are concocting a new page for MWM on the Martley website (martley.org.uk), which will give more information about MWM and how to contact us. But you can also contact any of the following: John Layton 01886 888460, Tom Pearsall 01886 888256 or Richard Jackman 01886 821237.

Michelle Higgins

Free publicity!

Come on – lets be 'aving you! Dates and details of events in and around Martley and Wichenford are urgently

needed for the Diary page of the Martley website (martley.org.uk). Publicise your event for FREE by emailing details to diary@martley.org.



Young farmers

MYFC stands for Martley Young Farmers Club, which is a registered charity. It has been going for over 60 years, and we are finding that numbers have dropped. It is part of a national federation and the membership age is 10 yrs to 26 years.

Most people think that it is a bunch of farmers' sons and daughters, but this is not true. If we had two from a farming background that would be it. It is for the above age group in the rural community.

We call it MYFC as it is quicker to say and easier to write.

The area we cover is: Martley, Clifton, Sapey, Shelsley, Whitbourne, Wichenford, Alfrick, Knightwick, Broadwas, Cotheridge.

MYFC Programme of events

Wednesday 3rd January - Swimming & Table Tennis—meet in the Crown carpark 7.30pm.

Wednesday 17th January—Talent Show - Shelsley Beauchamp Village Hall 7.30pm

Wednesday 31st January—Shin Dig - details to follow.

If you require further information, please call either Kat on 07854 377632 or Carole on 07813 567207.

Carole Powell

Searching for my ancestors

I have been reading your interesting magazine online after discovering that my great grandmother was born in your parish. I was wondering if any of your readers could help me find out any more information about the family.

Her name was Hannah Bellah Saunders. She was born in then last quarter of 1860 to a Richard Saunders (mothers name unknown to me) at Martley.

She later married a James Frederick Waldron on 9 Dec 1889 in Hampstead, North London. He was born 1861 in Hampstead.

They had at least five children, one of whom was my grandfather, Frederick. The others I have been unable to trace. Hannah died in 1919 and is buried at Hampstead Cemetery with her husband James, who died in 1908. My grandfather died in 1925 from the effects of the First World War. His wife, May Talbot, died in 1962 and his only daughter, my mother, died in 2000.

I would be interested if anyone could tell me anything about the history of the village at that time and any reasons to why Hannah would find herself in Hampstead.

I would also be interested if anybody had any information about Hannah's family. I have had no success so far.

Jennifer Dixon, nee Grellis
8 Elizabeth Ave, Bridport
Dorset
Email: grellisdixon@yahoo.co.uk



***Martley
Post Office***

As you are well aware due to media coverage Post Office services have been reduced and with Internet facilities and phone services now available to customers it puts the future of the village Post Office in jeopardy. If you want to keep Martley Post Office open, please continue to use our services. Use us or lose us!

Bruce, Maggie, Mary and Jon

Martley Parish Council

*Meeting held on 4th. December 2006
at the Memorial Hall*

Present: Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear, Cllr. Mr. N. Stammers, Cllr. Mrs. M. Randall, Cllr. Mr. M. Nott, Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh. In Attendance: Mr. T. Pear-sall (Clerk to The Parish Council), 7 members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear was elected Chairman.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

The Chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about Parish business; there were no questions

The Parish Council Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20:05 hrs.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mr. D.Cropp, Mr.G. Taylor, Mr.J. Slough and Mr. G. Coombey-Jones, these were accepted.

Address by PCs Jones and Prosser, West Mercia Police:

The Chairman introduced the two police constables, who then outlined their roles and responsibilities with respect to Martley. They revealed that regular patrols are being undertaken in and around the village. The contact details were given for non urgent calls (08457 444888 extn. 4324 & 3581) and the website address (www.westmercia.police.uk).

At this point the Chairman suspended the meeting so that members of the public could ask questions; there were several questions on a variety of subjects including parking on the footpaths at the Memorial Hall (the police agreed to keep an eye out for this especially on Sunday mornings). The Chairman thanked the officers for there information and resumed the meeting.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan:

The Clerk précised the two documents. It was resolved to support the plan.

Memorial Hall: The Clerk read out the letter from the Treasurer of Martley Memorial Hall requesting help towards the insurance bill. It was

resolved under Sect. 137 LGA 1972 to award a grant of £500.00.

Playing Field: The Clerk read out a letter from The Playing Field Association requesting help with the insurance bill. It was resolved to award a grant of £500.00.

District Councillor's Report: District Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams discussed the subjects on the forth coming Planning Meeting. Affordable housing in Malvern Hills District is now between £81,300 and £105,700 and is not to exceed £93,500 in our area. Due to an allocation of certain monies from Highways a number of dropped kerbs are proposed for Martley (corner of B4197 and Mortlake Drive and St. Peter's Drive adjacent to the Doctors surgery).

County Councillor's Report: County Councillor Mr. A. Davies had sent in his apologies thus no report was given.

Correspondence:

Correspondence for 4th. December 2006.

Planning:

Applications received:

1. The Barn to Hillside Farm, Hillside: Demolish pigsty/outhouse and construct single story extn. Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear

Approvals/ refusals:

1. Prickley Top, Hockhams Lane; building for beekeeping Approved.
2. Jubilee Cottage Kingswood Lane; Garden decking Approved.
3. Land at OS 7598 5747 Wants Green; barn for sheep Approved.
4. Lime Cottage Hipplecote; replace-

ment dwelling. Garage and new access.

Approved with conditions.

5. The Cottage Jury Lane; 4 house level; Refused.

Finance:

There were 9 cheques totalling £1986.42 for agreement and signature.

Income Nov 06:

£250.00

Current Bank Balance Lloyds TSB 16th. November 2006, £10,917.82

Actual position 4th. Dec 200, £9774.25

Deposit Acc , £7532.58

It was resolved to award a grant of £40.00 to The Royal British Legion

Councillors reports and items for future agendas:

- Ankerdine: Rogers Coaches have reported substantial road narrowing from the reservoir to Hipplecote due to overgrowth; the Clerk to write to Highways.
- An agenda item is required to finalise a decision on the litter bins.
- To alleviate the parking problem at the Memorial Hall, the Clerk is to discuss with Mr. L. Hoskins the possibility of the home teams parking at The Crown.

.Date and Time of the next meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 8th. January 2007 at 8 p.m.

This is an edited version of the Martley Parish Council minutes. For an unedited transcript please go online to www.martley.org.uk



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS



Janet Andrews
01886 888303

Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Flower rota

7 January Mrs Webb
14 January Mrs Richards
21 January Mrs Richards
28 January Mrs Andrews

Wichenford 100 Club

November winner. Ticket 64 D Woodward, husband of last month's winner).

Millennium Green Tidying & Inspection Rota

January Jan Panton

Advance notice

Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 2 March 2007 at 2pm. This will be held at St Thomas' Church, Crown East. The speaker will be Dr Grace Emmerson and this year's topic will be "Paraguay – United under God's Tent".

Wichenford Ladies

Wichenford Ladies and friends filled 41 shoeboxes for 'Operation Christmas Child', a Samaritans' project that

meets the critical needs of victims of war, poverty, famine, disease and natural disasters. A truly worthy cause, and well done to all who supported this wonderful project.

Welcome back

Welcome back John. We missed you in Wichenford. Postman John Jenkins was back at work after Christmas, finally being re-instated by the Royal Mail after an absence of 16 months, now fully fit and rearing to go. John's cheerful face is with us again. His first message to the people of Wichenford was to thank them for their support and all the friendly messages received. So for one person at least it is "A Happy New Year".

Memorial Hall

In November's issue of the Villager we advertised Brian Draper to give an illustrated talk on the 9th February. This is in fact the date for the Whist Drive. But Brian Draper will

In memoriam

Ethel Margery Beach – 11 September 1907 to 7 November 2006

Canon A J Beach and his wife came to live in Grimley in 1972 after retiring from Netley Abbey on Southampton Water where they lived for 30 years. They looked after Wichenford Parish during an Interregnum for 11 months in 1975-6 where they made many friends. In 1979 they published "the Story of Wichenford" jointly, after much painstaking research, a true history dating from Saxon times, a treasured book in many homes here and abroad,

Between 1979 and 1988, when Canon beach sadly died, they enjoyed the opportunity, with Col and Mrs P Brit-

ten, of exploring the Worcestershire countryside and further afield, picnicking and visiting churches and other places of interest; a happy time. After her husband's death, Mrs Beach and Mrs Britten took up art classes, watercolour painting and china painting, a hobby both thoroughly enjoyed and excelled at.

Then when Mrs Beach's sight began to fail, she went to live in Dorset House, Droitwich, where she made friends of Staff and Residents alike and was lovingly cared for until her death.

They were both wonderful people, and this was evident by the number of people attending the Memorial Service so many years after they left Wichenford.

give a talk on February 16th at the Memorial Hall, in aid of the Wichenford Memorial Hall.

Don't forget that we are planning the Cheese and Wine party, with Silent Auction and Auction of Promises on the 16th March. If you have anything you would like to donate (are you moving house?? Any unwanted gifts?? Those beautiful shoes which are just a tiny bit too tight?? Can you give a promise of a cake baking session, an evening of ironing, some fire-wood, etc?) Margaret Fisher would love to hear from you. Please ring her on 01886 888 214.

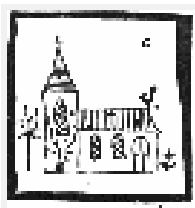
All funds raised will go to the Memorial Hall; the next project is the upgrading of a small roof, and the refurbishment of the kitchen.

Georgina Brittan-Long

Broadheath discussion club

Over 100 members and guests attended the Annual Goose Supper of Broadheath & District Discussion Club. After a delicious meal at Sapey Golf Club, the following awards were presented to our local farmers:

Grass Ley – 2nd Peter Andrews, 3rd John Richards. Maize – 1st Peter Andrews, 2nd John Richards, 3rd Trevor Pargeter. Dairy Herd – 2nd Peter Andrews, 3rd John Richards. Beef – 2nd Trevor Pargeter. Sheep – 2nd John Richards. Best Garden – 1st Helen Pargeter.



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

A Happy New Year to each and everyone. Whether last year has been difficult or joyous, I do hope the New Year brings blessings for you and your family.

The Church family in our Benefice have someone to be thankful for, Jennifer Whittaker, who on the 21st December was licensed as (Non Stipendiary) assistant priest to continue to serve within the benefice, continuing the good work she has begun. We offer her our congratulations and God's blessing upon all she does.

We are also thankful for being offered a new curate, Bruce Thompson and his wife Margaret. They will be joining us after his ordination on 1st July, 2007, which will take place at Worcester cathedral.

With all this good news we also have challenges to face in the New Year. We are continuing to discuss ways forward of ministering as the church in the 21st century with reduced full time clergy and increasing numbers of lay people helping in various ways. It is not only our own benefice of Martley, Wichenford and the Lower Teme Valley who are working on these ideas, but neighbouring benefices too. Together we will be seeking a way to continue to serve our communities, helping us to grow in faith and in

numbers. The Church is not the awesome buildings we have to worship within, but the wonderful people who faithfully follow their calling in Christ day by day. Namely you and me, who call ourselves Christians! We all have a part in making sure the witness of the Christian Gospel is here for many more years to come. Without a worshipping community meeting regularly in these buildings, their purpose and future will be in question. Controversial words? Maybe, but let me affirm my commitment to see the Gospel of Christ brought to life within the countryside whilst I am with you.

To this end you will know I will be on sabbatical, January, February, and March. This is study leave to enable me to research how large groups of churches administer their Christian ministry within their area. This I want to make sure happens for all ages both young and old, and to discover ways of growing and not just maintaining church. I will also take time for retreats and prayer and a time to recharge before I return to my duties on 1st April, (we could say all fools day, but it is also Palm Sunday). Thank you for all your messages of support and encouragement, it makes Christian ministry so special. I look forward to another encouraging year with you. God Bless you all.

Rev David Sherwin

Church events in January

- Monday 1st January Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 2nd January 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene,
Broadwas
- Saturday 6th January 9-10.30 Benefice Prayer Group, St Mary Magdalene,
Broadwas
- Sunday 7th January 8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.00am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley
11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
- Monday 8th January 8.30am Prayer Breakfast at the home of (tba)
- Wednesday 10th Jan 10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
- Thursday 11th Jan 2.00pm Little Minnows at St Peter
- Sunday 14th January 8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
10.00am Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
- Monday 15th January 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
- Tuesday 16th January 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene,
Broadwas
- Thursday 18th January 2.00pm Pastoral Team Meeting, venue tba
- Sunday 21st January 8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge
11.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
11.00am Morning Worship, St Peter, Martley
11.00am Morning Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel
- Monday 22nd January 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broad-
was
- Wednesday 24th Jan 10.15am, Holy Communion, Heaton House
- Thursday 25th Jan 12.00 Mothers Union at the home of Muriel Coombe
- Sunday 28th January 8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene,
Broadwas
9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
- Monday 29th January 9.00am Morning Prayer at St Leonard, Cotheridge
7.30pm Wardens Meeting at Knightwick Village Hall

Mothers of Martley

“We can’t keep going on one salary. The children are all in school now. I want to use my skills.” There are many reasons why women return to work after having children. This can be difficult if there has been a long gap since the mother was last in the work place.

Many women want to return to work, but only part time so they can continue to be at home with little ones or to be there when the older ones get home from school. However, it can be hard to find good quality part time work.

Research published in July 2006 by a Sheffield university found that 54 per cent of women working part time had previously worked in positions requiring more qualifications, skills or experience, or with more responsibility. The researchers also found that a majority of managers interviewed believed that more senior positions had to be full time. A new government action plan is trying to combat this.

Part-time work websites

www.workingmums.co.uk

www.justparttime.co.uk

www.mumandworking.co.uk

As an alternative to part-time work,

some women turn to self employment for the flexibility they need. In the last 20 years, the rate of female self-employment has more than doubled. In September, a study revealed a boom in ‘kitchen sink tycoons.’

These are mothers with young children who have become entrepreneurs. Examples of the resulting businesses are Friends Reunited, Babylicious and Early Essentials (a one-stop-baby-shop).

The average turnover of the 244 ‘tycoon mothers’ featured in the study was £26,000.

The tycoons also reported that though they spend much more time with their children than other working mothers, they rarely had quality time with their husbands, ‘me time’ or time for household chores.

For those mums in rural areas there is dedicated support if you want to start up your own business. Women in Rural Enterprise (WIRE) is a national organisation which helps women in rural areas develop and grow their business.

Log on to www.wireuk.org for more information and Business Link (www.businesslink.gov.uk).



Village Contacts



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Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org.uk
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Martley WI	Gwynn Darby—01886 888490
Martley & Dist Hort. Soc.	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 <i>or</i> Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303, Sheila Richards— 01886 888378
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Counl.	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Secretary—Mike Holmes 01905 641739
Trefoil Guild	geraldine.cooper@btopenw orld.com