

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 20 No. 9 February 2011

Advertise in The Villager: Aileen Parker. 01886 888456

Editor: Michelle Higgins (01886 888344)

Editorial Team: *Martley* Alan Boon (01886 888527), Kate King (01886 888439)

Wichenford Janet Andrews (01886 888303), Sheila Richards (01886 888378)

Distribution: *Martley* George & June Lawrence (01886 821064) *Wichenford* Karen Furber (01886 888449)

Contact The Villager: Leave articles at Martley Post Office, call Janet or Sheila (Wichenford) or email the Editor at editor@martley.org

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

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

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

3rd Sunday in the month:

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

Mondays

Rhythm Time: 9.30-11.30am Martley Memorial Hall *Enq.* Rachel 01886 812565

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

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling: 2.00pm Martley

Memorial Hall

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

Martley 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***

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



Martley 100 club

November Winners

£60.00, number 16, Dale Albutt

£30.00, number 57, Mrs K Albutt

December Winners

£40.00, number 46, Simon

Honeybourne



Martley & District Horticultural Society

The Society's year was rounded off on 3rd December with the Members' Dinner and as usual an excellent meal was provided – roast meat with all the trimmings and plenty of liquids to wash down with too. Then came the speakers and thanks were made to all who had helped in a number of special ways over the year, presentations were also given to those people. After the speeches, the Rev David Sherwin led some lovely Christmas Carols. Needless to say the "The Twelve Days of Christmas" broke all the health and

safety rules on decibels. What IS to be done about it?

The 2011 programme looks very good indeed. On the 24th February we have William Scott talking (and we hope demonstrating) on 'Tool Sharpening for the Light Hearted' – so, come on all you heavy hearted gardeners, you can bring a tool if you like! New members are always very welcome to join us.

Tina Steele



Teme Valley Children's Centre

All New Dads Group!

Teme Valley Children's Centre is very pleased to announce the launch of their 'all new' Dad's group. The aim of the group is to allow dads and male carers to spend quality time with their under 5 year olds in a friendly and relaxed setting. It will also give dads chance to meet up with other male carers in the area and to make use of

Children's Centre's services. Be prepared for lots of fun activities to do with your children. Bacon butties will be available. The first group will be on Saturday 5th February 2011 at The Regal Community Hall in Tenbury, from 10am-12noon and will then take place on the first Saturday of every month. If you would like more information on the group or to book a place for you and your child then just contact the Children's Centre on 01886 812982 or email kate.alty@barnardos.org.uk



Nearly New Table Top Sale – Teme Valley Children's Centre

Remember that our next Nearly New children's clothes and toys Table Top Sale will be held on Saturday 26th February at Abberley Village Hall from 11.30am – 1pm. Admission is only 50p and it is worth getting there early, as previous experience has shown us that a queue forms pretty quickly with many customers wanting to be the first to find those great bargains!

For more information please ring the Children's Centre on 01886 812982 or email [Tasha on natasha.morgan@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Tasha.on.natasha.morgan@barnardos.org.uk).



Chantry High School Drama Activities

This month sees another community project at The Chantry when we present two short intergenerational plays as part of Worcestershire County Council's Generations Together (featuring some of the all-age cast from last year's very successful Back Across the Fields).

Please support our school and join us for "Them and Us" - an evening of two halves: The Hop Field, when haunting secrets from the past are unexpectedly revealed, followed by Killing Me Softly, when teenage secrets of the 21st Century could give you nightmares.

This event will be held in the Chantry High School Drama Studio at 7.30pm on Thurs 10th, Fri 11th and Saturday 12th February 2011. Tickets are limited and not available at the door. Please book your tickets by contacting the school office on 01886 887100. All tickets are priced at £3.



Announcements/Thank You



Sincere thanks from the Woodburn family
Chris Woodburn and family would like to thank all those in the Martley and Wichford parishes who helped with the thanksgiving service and with the refreshments afterwards at the village hall, to celebrate the life of Brian Woodburn.

Christmas Engagement

Mr and Mrs Mark Albutt of Martley, Worcestershire are delighted to announce the engagement of their son Dale to Miss Gemma Taylor. Dale proposed to Gemma in New York on

Christmas Eve.

Congratulations and very best wishes to both families from The Villager team.



Ferndale Singers – Christmas Concert

On 11th December, in Martley, the Ferndale Singers, under the baton of their Musical Director, Merren Anthony, sang a wide selection of Christmas music ranging from favourites such as Jingle Bells to the exuberant Wassail Song. The very

enthusiastic audience was invited to join in several popular carols and reached a peak of excellence in the Twelve Days of Christmas!!

In the interval, the audience was served with wine and delicious cake and mince pies. The raffle, in aid of the Worcestershire Breast Unit Campaign and the British Legion Poppy Appeal, was most generously supported and raised nearly £300.

For the information of newcomers to the area, the Ferndale Singers is a community mixed choir of 25 voices, which was formed 24 years ago. The membership is drawn from the lower Teme Valley villages, with some singers coming from further afield, from Bromyard, Malvern and Worcester. The choir is seeking men who can sing Bass or Tenor parts and would welcome enquiries. Perhaps this could be a belated New Year's Resolution!



Martley Ramblers

Sunday 13 February 1.30pm Church car park

We are going to venture out of the village again this month across to Kidderminster, Stone and the Spennals areas. Gill Gough will be leading and



vehicles will be leaving St Peters Church car park at 1.30 p.m.

This is a slightly earlier start than usual as the afternoons can still be quite dark.

Kate King



Martley WI

**Wednesday 9 February
7.30pm Heaton House**

Having had a very enjoyable couple of sessions trying our hands at box making and felting, this month Annette Smith and Helen Coombey-Jones will be doing a bit of Dabbling and Demonstrating. This includes some of the crafts they tried at Denman College and doubtless we shall all try some ourselves. The little boxes we created at Christmas made very attractive containers for small presents. What will we do this time? Come and join us to find out. Visitors are always welcome. The competition is for a Valentine Keepsake.

Our annual dinner will be at The Crown, Martley on Wednesday 16 February – this is to include husbands,

partners or friends.

One other thing to start thinking about is the Federation annual handicrafts show later in the year, when the subject is “Proverbs”. Think about suggestions for exhibits. What about “A stitch in time” – laddered tights – perfect darning? Perhaps not!

Kate King

Pudford Twitters

It’s all over, it’s all over.

What is? All the Christmas and New Year celebrations have gone, but has the snow and ice gone for another year?

The Pudford Glacier has put in two appearances, but how many more before spring comes? Jacob donkey has had a good supply of dry hay supplemented by ginger biscuits;

doubtless his braying can be heard in the village when he wants another one. Plenty of birds are still helping to use up

our pensions but it is lovely to see them, especially groups of up to 15 long-tailed tits. The stupid robins, six of them most of the time, spend their time keeping each other away from the food while the other birds keep eating until it is too dark, too late and no food left for the robins. Surely they could come to an agreement with each other to cease warring occasionally!



Kate King

Martley's Past

Some notes from the Boys School, February 1897 to July 1897.

1 February – Snow has fallen during the night, but is slowly disappearing.

3 February – Snow has fallen again rather heavily.

5 February – The weather during the week has been wretched. It has poured with rain all day today and the roads are swimming in mud. Attendance badly affected. Only 36 present (out of 70. ALB). Instead of drawing allowed boys to colour with crayons the copies in their drawing books.

7 April – An epidemic of influenza coughs is passing through the school.

3 May – S Curtis punished for stone throwing whereby Wm Summers' ear was badly cut.

21 May – The influenza epidemic still continues, and the average attendance is only 51.1 out of 70.

22 June – Commenced lessons at 9am for the children to attend the Jubilee Commemoration Service in the parish church at 11am. Half holiday in afternoon.

23 June – Half holiday this afternoon and for rest of week in honour of the Queen's Jubilee.

27 July – Holiday today, given in honour of the wedding of Miss H H Holliday of Martley Court.

Alan Boon

Martley Parish Council



(Edited draft unapproved record of meeting of Martley Parish Council held on Monday 6 December 2010 at the Memorial Hall)

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time:

A parishioner queried whether any councillors had attended the SWJCS (South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy presentations by MHDC. No-one had attended but the Clerk confirmed that an information pack which can be shared with parishioners will be circulated to Parish Councils in the New Year. A parishioner raised concerns regarding the speed limit and speed of vehicles at the top of Ankerdine Hill. Concerns were raised about inconsiderate parking in this area. The Clerk will refer the matter to the new Community Support Officer for Martley, Helen Cooper.

Representatives from Martley Recreation Association and the Parish Council discussed the playing field and insurance costs (which were met by the Parish Council).

Minutes:

The minutes for the previous Parish Council meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Outstanding actions from previous minutes:

The Clerk will: continue to investigate the authorisation of cycle races and the herbicide spraying; discuss with the Police the possibility of reinvigorating the Local Youth Forum; liaise with Highways regarding the report and logging into the on-line reporting facility; pass the Outdoor Smart Water pack to the Recreation Association when it arrives; arrange for the Freedom of Martley lettering to be put on the board; liaise with MHDC Tree Officer regarding the land outside Heaton House.

Progress Reports:

The Clerk.

A trip to Envirosort has been arranged for 14 December 2010. The Clerk will arrange for appropriate up-to-date information to be published on the Martley website.

A report has been submitted to Worcester County Council regarding the metal railings at Kenswick Manor. Lengthsman. The Clerk will leave a list of jobs for the month in the shop in addition to emails. The lengthsman will be reminded to submit his invoices monthly, together with details of dates, times, number of persons carrying out the task, mode of transport, etc.

District and County Councillor's reports:

District Cllr Williams report was read

in her absence: South Worcestershire Development Plan - the government revoked the Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). Malvern, Worcester and Wychavon welcomed this as it allows the three councils to deliver a new plan on local housing aspirations, and The South Worcestershire Development Plan has been created, focusing on economic prosperity. Details of the plan will be available on Worcester.gov.uk in 2011.

New agreement to make savings – Malvern Hills District Council has joined forces with Bromsgrove, Redditch, Malvern Hills District, Wychavon and Wyre Forest Councils to combine purchasing power and get better value for money for residents. The new arrangement should deliver between 5% and 10% in savings by improving purchasing power and sharing expertise.

By jointly seeking contracts for goods and services which ensure stronger influencing powers.

Task and Finish Group - MHDC will set up a group to investigate the role of Parish and Town Councils within the Malvern Hills Development Control Process and how the District Council supports their role.

County Cllr Davies reported: WCC have produced a draft report on speed on the B4204 which recommends that the speed limit in the area around Martley could go up to 40MPH; however, WCC and Martley PC consider it more appropriate that it remains at 30MPH.

Planning:

New

There are no new planning applications for this period.

Pending

There are no pending applications for this period.

Approved

10/01360/HOU Shelton House, Newtown – Extensions and modifications to existing residential dwelling.

10/01172/HOU White Cottage, Kingswood – Erection of extensions and swimming pool.

10/01125/HOU Penny Patch, Hillside – Two storey extension to rear and side.

10/00627/HOU 3 Masons View, Laugherne Park – Conservatory to rear, ensuite extension and erection of shed within domestic curtilage.

Withdrawn by applicant

10/01135/FUL Tomkins Farm, Hope House Lane – Residential conversion of attached barn and upgrading of house.

Finance:

The accounts for November were issued and five cheques totalling £1,829.91 approved.

Correspondence:

Included (For information) Consultation notice for Local Transport Plan

Urgent decisions since the last meeting:

£50 was donated to The British Legion for the wreath and additional donation.

Councillors reports and items for future agendas:

Cllr Gale will speak to the schools regarding the need for a lollipop lady and for helmets to be worn by cyclists, and report at the next meeting. Mrs Owen will report to the school regarding some pupils not wearing protective headgear when riding bikes, as this is referred to in the school's travel plan.

Concern was raised regarding the oversized willow trees opposite the church car park. The Clerk will write to the owner.

The Clerk will remind MHDC about the requested salt boxes.

Cllr Fearnough is to get a quote to trim the trees in St. Peters Drive/ Badger Close.

Cllr Metcalfe advised that a parishioner had kindly agreed to be Martley Neighbourhood Watch Co-Coordinator. The next step is to look for volunteers in Martley who will act as a point-of-contact for their locality. If there are areas where no volunteers can be found, those areas will not be covered. The Clerk offered her assistance to the Co-ordinator as and when required.

Date of next meeting:

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, Bank Holidays excepted.



Martley Library Opening Times

Monday 2—7 pm
 Wednesday 4—6 pm
 Thursday 10am -1 pm
 Friday 2 - 4 pm
 Saturday 10am -12 noon
 01886 888396 (*opening hours only*)

Did You Know?

Book Facts

The Holy Bible is the biggest selling book of all time.

The oldest printed book in the World is believed to be "The Diamond Sutra" which bears the date 868 AD.

Britain's most expensive book is Shakespeare's First Folio which sold at auction for £2.8 million.

JK Rowling's Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix is the fastest-selling book ever.

The smallest book in the World is a leather bound volume which measures .4mm by 2.9mm and has a letter of the alphabet on each page.

Mobile Library 2011

Ockeridge

Silver Oaks 9.45–10.05

Wichenford

Malvern View 10.10–10.35

Church 10.45–11.05

Kings Green Farm 11.15–11.40

Rosses Green 11.45–12.05

Martley Hillside

Horn Lane Bungalows 12.10–12.25

Martley

Taylor's of Martley 12.30–12.45

LUNCH

Heaton House 1.20–1.50

Church 1.55–2.15

Clifton

Village Hall 2.30–3.50

The Mobile Library will be visiting these stops on Wednesdays on the dates listed below in 2011:

12 January	21 February	23 February
16 March	6 April	27 April
18 May	8 June	29 June
20 July	10 August	31 August
21 September		12 October
		2 November
23 November		14 December

The Mobile Library will also be visiting Cob House Fisheries every 3rd Thursday 1.30-2.15pm





Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



What's happening at the Cob House

Paralympian and World Champion Joins the Team at Cob House

We are very happy to have secured the help of Mel Clarke, Paralympics Archer and World Champion. Mel will be running coaching courses, schools education, corporate days and one day bookable events (subject to her busy calendar) leading up to the 2012 Olympics. Dates will soon be publicised, please register your interest at the Mayfly Café 01886 888 517.

Regular events at Cob House

Mondays

Yummy Mummy Mondays – call in and join us for a coffee and chat, join in the Fundamental Movement Class if you wish.

241 on Coarse Fishing

Tuesdays

Senior Citizens Special – Small carvery and dessert with tea/filter coffee for £5.99

Wednesdays

Cob House Open Match

Thursdays

From the 6th January the Mobile Library will visit us every 3rd Thursday from 1.20pm to 2.15pm

Fridays

Breast Feeding Chums Group 10.30 to 11.30 every other Friday in the Teaching Centre.

Contact Kate Alty, Teme Valley Children's Centre 01886 812982

Saturdays

Cob House Open Match Please call to book your place 01886 888 517.

Tuesday to Friday

Take advantage of the full English breakfast for just £3.75 fishing specials

Holidays:

Spy School returns

21st to 23rd Feb and 31st May to 2nd June.

CSI Experience

11 – 15th April

Adventure Experience

8-12 August 2011

Help for Hero's Charity Day

This will take place on the 2nd May 2011. There will be a Charity Fishing

Match (places now being filled), Air Rifle Demonstrations, Greyhound Rescue, Archery, Craft stalls, junior angling coaching and much, much more.

If you would like to hold a stall or perform a demonstration, please contact us on 01886 888 517 or email sales@cobhouse.org

Activities are continually added so please check the website www.cobhouse.org for updates. Don't forget you can visit our animals, the Alpacas, Reindeer, Pigs, Ducks and Chickens at anytime completely free of charge. We look forward to seeing you at the Cob House soon.



December 2010 - a son for Keren and Andrew Kelly. Congratulations to both families and very best wishes from The Villager Team.

Wichenford 100 Club

Congratulations to our winners this month. The First prize went to number 81, Alan Green. Returned subscriptions to numbers 147 Laura Hughes and 141 Karen Furber.

This months draw was undertaken by Clive Chaplin.

Announcements/Thank Yous

Thank you from the family of the late David Mills

Val Mills and the family thank all their friends and neighbours for all the kindness, help and support they have received in their sad loss of David. Special thanks to Sheila Richards for the beautiful flowers.



All the kindness and help shown was very much appreciated.

Christmas Baby!

Carol and Brian Garrett, of Wichenford are very pleased to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Thomas, born on the 19th

Church Flowers

6 February	10.30am	Mrs Whyatt
13 February	10.30am	A A W
20 February	4pm	Mrs Smith
27 February	10.20am	Mrs Smith



Calling All Wichenford Residents!!!

***Coming to the March Issue of the Villager—
Wichenford's Past***



Do you have an article that you would like to see in a future edition of The Villager?

We would love to receive your articles and are very interested in anything of interest/history about our lovely village, Wichenford. Please submit your articles to editor@martley.org or drop your article off at Martley Post Office.

Wichenford PCC Meeting

The next meeting of Wichenford PCC is on Wednesday 23 February at 11am in the Memorial Hall.



Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship meeting is on Tuesday 15 February at 2.30pm. The venue is to be arranged.

Roving Sports Reporter Needed

Are you interested /are you involved with any local sports clubs ?

Could you report on local events and submit them to The Villager?

We are looking to develop a 'Local Sports News Page in the Villager and need regular contributions from local residents on football, cricket, rugby or any other sports team or activity in the village/s

If you are interested then please email the editor@martley.org or pop your details (including your telephone number) into the Martley Post Office and we will be in touch!!



© Ron Leishman - www.ClipartDL.com/4210108

Wichenford History**

We are starting, in this issue, what we hope will be a regular column about our lovely village Wichenford.



Wichenford Dovecote

Here is a short taster for you and we hope you enjoy it !

*** (Information sourced and taken from British History online, excerpt taken from A History Of The County Of Worcester, Volume 3, first published in 1913)*

The parish of Wichenford lies 6 miles to the north-west of the town of Worcester. Its area is 2,866 acres,) of which in 1905 656 acres were arable land, 1,761 permanent grass and 119 woods. The soil is clay, with a subsoil of Keuper Marl, growing crops of wheat, beans and fruit and a few hops. The slope of the land is from north-west to south-east, the highest point, 363 ft. above the ordnance datum, being in the extreme north-west.

Laughern Brook, flowing east to join the River Teme near Powick, divides the parish into two parts, and is crossed at Pig Bridge by the Worcester road. To the south of the bridge there are fish ponds and a weir. Woodhall Farm and Woodend Farm lie still further south, and at both there are the remains of moats. The village of Wichenford is situated on the eastern boundary of the parish on the banks of Laughern Brook

Church

The church of *S T . LAWRENCE* consists of a chancel measuring internally 27¾ ft. by 16½ ft., a north vestry, a nave 49 ft. by 21½ ft., a west tower 10 ft. wide and a south porch. The nave is the oldest part of the present church and dates from about 1320. The east part of the contemporary chancel has been rebuilt in modern times. The present tower was added at the end of the 14th century, the original west wall of the nave being removed. In 1791 the steeple was removed as being unsafe, and in 1863 the upper part of the tower was rebuilt and a new spire added. There is some evidence of the existence of a 12th-century church in the capitals of that date preserved at the rectory.





Dates for your Diary February 2011

Monday 14th February 2011

A Valentines day poem

Valentine Smile

*On Valentine's Day we think of those
who make our lives worthwhile,*

*Those gracious, special people who
we think of with a smile,*

*I am fortunate to know you, that's why
I w a n t t o s a y ,*

*To a rare and special person, Happy
Valentine's Day!
I want to say,*

*To a rare and special person, Happy
Valentine's Day!*

Valentine's Day facts

In Wales wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favourite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"

In the middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

In some countries, a young woman may receive a gift of clothing from a young man. If she keeps the gift, it means she will marry him.

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

A love seat is a wide chair. It was first made to seat one woman and her wide dress. Later, the love seat or courting seat had two sections, often in an S-shape. In this way, a couple could sit together -- but not too closely!

Think of five or six names of boys or girls you might marry, as you twist the stem of an apple, recite the names until the stem comes off. You will marry the person whose name you were saying when the stem fell off.



Chinese New Year
The Year of the Rabbit

3rd February 2011

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade. The Chinese calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. The lunar cycle is about 29.5 days. In order to "catch up" with the solar calendar the Chinese insert an extra month once every few years (seven years out of a 19-year cycle). This is the same as adding an extra day on leap year. This is why, according to the solar calendar, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are celebrated as a family affair, a time of reunion and thanksgiving. The celebration was traditionally highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honour of Heaven and Earth, the gods of the household and the family ancestors. The sacrifice to the ancestors, the most vital of all the rituals, united the living members with those who had passed away. Departed relatives are remembered with great respect because they were responsible for laying the foundations for the fortune and glory of the family.

A person born in the year of the Rabbit possesses one of the most fortunate of the twelve animal signs. The Rabbit, or Hare as he is referred to in Chinese mythology, is the emblem of longevity and is said to derive his essence from the Moon.

During the Chinese mid-Autumn festival when the Moon is supposed to be at its loveliest, Chinese children still carry lighted paper lanterns made in the image of a Rabbit and climb the hills to observe the Moon and admire the Moon Hare.

The Rabbit symbolizes graciousness, good manners, sound counsel kindness and sensitivity to beauty. His soft speech and graceful and nimble ways embody all the desirable traits of a successful diplomat or seasoned politician.

Likewise, a person born under this sign will lead a tranquil life, enjoying peace, quiet and a congenial environment. He is reserved and artistic and possesses good judgment. His thoroughness will also make him a good scholar. He will shine in the fields of law, politics and government.



In the Garden



February is, on average, colder than January and hard frosts are still common. I expect that many of us will already have lost plants in those bitterly cold days last December, so keep your eye on the weather forecast! On the plus side, the days are getting longer and there are more hours of sunshine, there are also the early spring flowers to enjoy.

I would advise you to 'Keep off the grass if it is frozen or frosted' because when it thaws the damaged leaves will turn an unsightly yellow, and to 'Keep off the soil if it is wet' because it will become compacted. What you can do is improve the soil by raking in an organic fertiliser, such as pelleted chicken manure, seaweed or blood and bone, or a synthetic slow release fertilizer. These won't wash out of the soil so quickly in wet weather and will give plants a boost at the start of the growing season.

From year to year the timings of sowing and planting can vary quite a lot depending on the weather. In February you can sow a few early vegetable crops, such as peas, broad beans, lettuce and salad onions. Sow them inside, somewhere where they will get plenty of light, and put them

out in March when the ground starts to warm up. Covering the ground with a cloche or a layer of black plastic for 2-3 weeks before planting will help the warming up process. If seeds are sown too early the young plants can be very 'leggy' due to the poor light levels, so, later sowings (March-April) are better for most of your veg.





You may have some pruning left to do if you didn't get round to it over winter. Birds will soon be looking for nesting sites, so try to get the pruning of hedges and large shrubs finished by the end of the month to avoid disturbing them once they have picked a spot. If you enjoy a garden visit, Colesbourne Park near Cheltenham has one of the finest snowdrop displays in the country. They are open every Saturday and Sunday during February, from 1pm - 4:30pm. Details, directions and updates on the plants and weather, are available on www.colesbournegardens.org.uk.

JC



Some Gardening Jokes to Make You Smile

Why do potatoes make good detectives?
Because they keep their eyes peeled.

My wife's a water sign. I'm an earth sign. Together we make mud.

Why do cowboys always die with their boots on? So they won't stub their toes when they kick the bucket.

What do you call a stolen yam? A hot potato.

What vegetable can tie your stomach in knots? String beans.

What did the carrot say to the wheat? Lettuce rest, I'm feeling beet.

What kind of socks does a gardener wear?

Garden hose.

What does the letter "A" have in common with a flower?

They both have bees coming after them.

What do you call a mushroom who buys everyone drinks and is the life of the party?

A fun-gi





Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Church February 2011

Who will be my Valentine?
Or should I say who was Valentine?

Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. It began as a pagan festival in which suitable husbands and wives or partners could be found with whom they would fall in love and later marry. During the rule of Emperor Claudius II the Emperor was finding difficulty in conscripting soldiers to his army for his military campaigns. He felt the reason was Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. Saint Valentine was a priest in Rome during the days of this Emperor. He and other priests secretly married couples during this prohibition period. Once the Emperor found out what he was doing Saint Valentine was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome who condemned him and had him beaten to death and beheaded. His martyrdom happened on the 14th day of February about the year 270. It followed that the story of Saint Valentine's defiance of the Emperor was associated with a time of finding

suitable partners and the church felt this was a good custom to encourage marriage. Valentine's Day therefore became a time when you would seek out your true love and hopefully be married. The people whom he had married were very fond of him and loved him dearly and obviously his death was greatly mourned. Traditions surrounding the story of Saint Valentine say that he himself was visited during his imprisonment by the daughter of the prison guard. On the day he was to die he is supposed to have left a note for her thanking her for her friendship and loyalty and signed it "love from your Valentine", hence the idea of leaving notes to loved ones. Whatever really did happen, Saint Valentine was obviously a very brave man who felt that it was important for people to celebrate their love for each other by marrying. It still is a good time to be reminded, and to remind those we love, that we are loved and we love them. It is also appropriate to be reminded that Saint Valentine's love of his God meant he was willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice of love in giving his life in the service of others. God bless.

David

Church Diary for February

Tuesday 1 February

10:00am, Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY

8.00am, Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel

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

Monday 7 February

9.00am, Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford

Tuesday 8 February

10:00am, Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

Wednesday 9 February

10:15am, Holy Communion, Heaton House

SUNDAY 13 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

Tuesday 15 February

10:00am, Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

SUNDAY 20 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, Knightwick Chapel

4:00pm, Evening Worship, St Laurence Wichenford

Monday 21 February

9:00am, Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley

Tuesday 22 February

10:00am, Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

SUNDAY 27 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

Monday 28 February

9.00am, Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas



Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Michelle Higgins editor@martley.org or 01886 888344 or leave articles at Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Aileen Parker—01886 888456 aileenparker@gmail.com
Church (Worcestershire West Rural Team)	<i>Rector:</i> Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 or davidwin56@aol.com <i>Assistant Priest:</i> Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Parish Council	<i>Chair:</i> Cllr. D Goodyear—01886 888423; <i>Clerk:</i> Sally Williams—01299 832949
Martley WI	<i>President:</i> Helen CoombeyJones—01886 888294
Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Toddler Group	Will—01886 888340 or Jane—01886 888852
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Martley Young Farmers	Lou Wickens—01886-812754 or Caroline Bullock—01905-333617
Path-or-Nones	John Nicklin—01886 888318 johnn@martley.org
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Police “Surgery”	CSO Matt Smith 7184—Martley Local Policing Team Tenbury Wells Police Station extn. 3581
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org
Martley Web Mesh	Richard Jackman—01886 821237 richard@martley.org John Layton—01886888460 johnl@martley.org Tom Pearsall—01886 888256 tom@martley.org
Martley Pre-School	Kath/Lucy—01886 889127 www.martleypreschool.co.uk
Martley Recreation Association (playing fields)	<i>Bookings</i> —Pat Owen 01886 888406 pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk
Martley Memorial Village Hall Committee	<i>Chair</i> —Neil Stammers 01886-888513 neil.stammers@btinternet.com <i>Secretary</i> —Annette Smith 01886-821895 villagehall@martley.org or Lyn Wheeler 01886-889240 mortlake10@martley.org
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303 or Sheila Richards—01886 888378
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431
Wichenford Local Heritage Group	Heather Rendall—01886 888239

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 ...

Little Witley's February Film

Saturday 26th February 2011

The Bucket List

Edward Cole (Jack Nicholson) is a corporate billionaire who is currently sharing a hospital room with blue-collar mechanic Carter Chambers (Morgan Freeman). Though initially the pair seems to have nothing in



common, conversation gradually reveals that both men have a long list of goals they wish to accomplish before they 'kick the bucket'. But one can't accomplish such lofty objectives from the confines of a hospital bed, so now in order to live their lives to the absolute fullest Edward and Carter will have to make a break for it!

See details of the Little Witley Film Society on the Leisure page of www.martley.org.uk or phone Jean Latham on 01886 88888122

Quote of the Month

Instead of counting your days, make your days count.