

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 16 No. 9

February 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:

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

2nd Sunday in the month:

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

Mondays

1st Monday in the month:

Martley Parish Council 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing

7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

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

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

Other events:

Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

Telephone Service: Mon & Tue 10am—
3pm Thu 10am— 7.30pm **Great Witley**

& Knightwick Surgeries: Weds 10am -
4pm - by appt. 01584 810860

See Church Words for details of services

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

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

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



February folklore

February was introduced onto the Roman Calendar by Numa Pompilius when the calendar was extended from 10 to 12 months. The word February comes from the word februa, which means cleansing or purification and reflects the rituals undertaken before Spring.

The Anglo-Saxons called February Sol-monath, which means cake month and it was also known as sprout-kale, from the sprouting of cabbage or kale. February 2 is Candlemas day when all the candles used in the church during the coming year were brought into

church and a blessing was said over them. In Medieval times people believed that Candlemas day predicted the weather for the rest of the year and ancient weather lore includes:

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.*

*If Candlemas Day brings cloud and
rain,
Winter won't come again.*

Snowdrops

Snowdrops appear in February and are traditionally a symbol of hope. The name snowdrop doesn't mean drop of snow, but 'drop' as in eardrop – the old word for earring. Snowdrops are also known as Candlemas bells.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday marks 40 days before Easter and was the last day before lent, so it was last day for fun and games. Most commonly, villages used to play football against each other. In some villages and towns traffic would be stopped and all men would come out into the street, the church bell would ring and a football, or pig's bladder, would be thrown into the crowd. Skip-

ping is also a traditional Shrove Tuesday game. The most usual meal we still make on Shrove Tuesday is pancakes and is more commonly called pancake day.

St Valentine's Day

February 14 is Valentine's day and is thought to originate from the day when birds start to choose their mates.

Leap year

February 29 is leap year day, which occurs every four years. Hundreds of years ago the leap year day had no recognition in English law. So the day was leapt over and ignored, hence the term leap year.

Martley Horticultural Society

As usual the Christmas Dinner in the Village Hall was much enjoyed, with a good number of members feasting on the splendid meal.

Our new president, Pat Finch, welcomed everyone, the new chairman, Ray Ellis, also spoke and the interesting and varied programme for 2007 was read out – this includes visits to members' gardens, always pleasant occasions. E Freeman is now vice chairman. The evening was rounded off with Rev David Sherwin leading us with much loved carols – “five gold rings” must have carried as far as Clifton-upon-Teme!

This month's meeting is on 22 February – a talk and demonstration on flower arranging by Joan Southerton. New members welcome. Some other

important dates are the Spring Show, 31 March; the Plant Sale, 26 May; the Annual Show, 18 August; AGM, 29 November and the Christmas Dinner 7 December.

All meetings commence at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Martley unless otherwise stated. Outings commence from same location, at times to be confirmed at the prior meeting.

Pudford Lane

Now that John and Jacqui Owen have left Fair View for good and are safely back in Saskatoon, Canada, they send greetings to all friends and thanks especially to members of the Village Hall Committee who helped with their garden sale.

Also, thanks to the ladies at the library for their constant help, courtesy and for ensuring the computers and internet access were so readily available. The temperature on their return was soon -20C, rather warmer than their usual autumnal temperatures and with a good supply of snow. They promise to return for visits in the future to catch up with news. Welcome to the new owners of Fair View, Mike and Sheila from Holt Heath Post Office. We wish them many happy years in Pudford Lane.

The signs of spring are around with celandines, aconites and snowdrops cheering us up. Hazel catkins have been dangling for some weeks now and the fieldfares and lapwings did come back and have been foraging for fallen apples. Pigeons nested during

December in a weeping willow, but magpies soon found the eggs and the pigeon pair decided to wait for spring. Litter droppers were quiet over the holiday period, but are now back to normal. Perhaps the installation of a chicken coop and some feathered inhabitants would take care of the many discarded sandwiches and takeaways. It could be a nice little earner for the Parish Council if the Layby Layers laid regularly.

Kate King



Martley Spurs

December ended well for the Saturday Premier side heading the Worcester Premier League table.

On the 9th, the Saturday eleven won again when they beat Upton Town 3-1. The next morning the Sunday Premier team drew one all with Powick and the Reserves beat Cutnall Green 4-0, a couple of these goals bagged by Carl Baker. A further win for the Saturday eleven came on the 16th with them beating Pershore Manor 2-1, Christ Collins and the veteran Wayne Baldwin both beating the Pershore goalie. The Sunday Premier side did not do so well the next day, they lost to Trinity Lakes and the Reserves did not manage to win either.

The Christmas weekend saw the Premier eleven playing against old rivals Hallow RWMC. The Spurs came out

on top of a thrilling game, Steve Prickett and Tony Farnsworth both netting a pair in their 4-3 win. There were no fixtures for the two Sunday sides on Christmas Eve.

The Spurs' annual Christmas draw made £464 for the club's funds. Wesley Stratford won the £100 first prize.

Beth Williams

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 11 February 1pm

Note another early start as February afternoons can be dark and gloomy and we do not want to get lost in the depths of Old Storridge. Who knows what ghoulies and ghosties might be lurking in the murk to seize unwary ramblers? We shall be leaving Church car park at 1pm en route to meet David Wilkes at Storridge.

Kate King

Martley WI

*Wednesday 14 February 7.30pm
Heaton House*

We are going to be crafty this month as Yvonne Mort will be talking about and demonstrating pressed flowers and their uses. Will they be exotic specimens that have to be pressed or will they be humble garden flowers? This could be a new venture for some to sell their efforts at future craft fairs and at the Horticultural Show. The competition is for a photo of a winter scene taken by a member.

Kate King

In the Garden



It's seed buying time. Armed with your list of chosen varieties, pop along to the Garden Centre, starting with onion sets and early potatoes – they always go first. Don't forget the old saying 'as the days get longer so the cold gets stronger' – be cautious about planting too early. It is a good idea to use cloches, fleece etc to dry the surface and warm the soil for a week or two prior to sowing. General fertiliser can be spread over dry land and cultivated into the surface. Sow in warm sheltered beds early varieties of carrots, peas and broad beans, also summer spinach and tubers of Jerusalem artichokes. You can sow parsnips in late February – start the seeds germinating indoors on damp tissue.

Lettuce and radishes can be sown in the third week, also sweet peas. Onions can be sown in trays in the greenhouse to plant outside in April. Lift parsnips and any other root vegetables before they make new leaf growth and the roots shrivel, store in sand in a cool place.

Hardy border plants can be transplanted. Split Michaelmas daisies and similar perennials. Prune late summer and early autumn flowering shrubs like Buddleia, Caryopteris and large flowering Clematis. Apply general fertiliser around all fruit trees and bushes etc. Cut back heathers and mulch with damp peat. Snowdrops can be divided as soon as flowering has finished. Work in some compost around established rock plants. In the greenhouse small heated propagators can be filled with the hardier annual flower seeds. Take geranium and fuchsia cuttings, these will need warmth to root successfully.

Tina Steele

Neighbourhood Watch online

Those of you who have computers with Internet access can now read the latest Neighbourhood Watch information online. This new service is provided free of charge by MWM (Martley Web Mesh). You can find the Neighbourhood Watch page on the Martley website (martley.org.uk). If you haven't got a computer, you can

use the computers in Martley Library (opening hours elsewhere in The Villager). Whoever is on duty there will help you if you need it.

Michelle Higgins

Martley's Past

On 25 February 1898, Mr Humpherson reported "Attendance has improved. Av. 58. (For the one teacher!)"

A "Recruiting Card" for the Royal Navy has been forwarded to the Managers and hung up in the School. The Rector, on Sunday morning last, read to the boys an official communication re: Stone-throwing."

Early next month he wrote in the 'HMI's Report (1897-8)'. "Considering that the Master has to teach six standards quite unassisted, the instruction may be considered satisfactory. The best results of the elementary work are shown in Writing and Spelling whilst the answering in Mental Arithmetic is the least commendable. Geography, Object Lessons and the rudiments of English Grammar are well known. Recitation of Poetry is marred by the omission of the aspirate. Praise is due for Military Drill (!) and singing by note. Excellent order is maintained."

Staff: H. Humpherson (Cert M).

A L Boon

Quality Parish Council

Martley became a Quality Parish Council in April 2005;

What does that mean?

A Quality Parish Council:

- is representative of, and actively engages, all parts of its community, providing vision, identity and a sense of belonging;
- is effectively and properly managed;
- articulates the needs and wishes of its community;
- upholds high standards of conduct;



- is committed to work in partnership with principal local authorities and other public service agencies;
- in proportion to its size and skills, delivers local services on behalf of principal local authorities when this represents the best deal for the local community;
- works closely with voluntary groups in its community;
- provides leadership to the community through its work on parish plans; and
- working with its partners, acts as an information point for local services.

A Quality Parish Council will provide leadership in promoting an inclusive community through, for example, supporting community transport schemes and childcare provision and helping to develop youth activities and services for the elderly.

A Quality Parish Council will work with others, including the voluntary and community sector, to undertake services funded from its own resources to look after the parish environment and provide public facilities

such as playgrounds. Quality Parish Councils, with the agreement of their principal local authorities, may take on the delivery of some services on their behalf, where this gives the local community the best deal.

Martley Parish Council has already delivered some of the above and is actively pursuing the remainder; negotiations are underway with the County and District Councils.

T.M. Pearsall

Teme Valley Views

One of the Children's Centre major challenges in the past couple of years has been to provide music classes for the under 5s. When our first questionnaire was distributed music was one of the five 'would love to have's', but finding suitable courses was to prove difficult.

We are delighted that Rachel Austin's Rhythm Time has been running successfully in Martley since September and is extremely popular with parents and children. Her Monday morning session is a Children's Centre 'hub', which means that Children's Centre staff are available to chat and that other services are provided. At the moment Usbourne Books run craft sessions each month and parents can meet over a cup of coffee provided by Coffee Haven Lite. For more information contact the Children's Centre.

Also on the same theme, are two music groups for children in Tenbury Wells. Ruth Herbert runs a music kindergarten on Thursdays and Fridays.

She teaches the children folk songs, play songs and rhymes so that they can develop their singing voices and enjoyment of music. Contact Ruth on 01584 811433 for more details. Tenbury Library also has a regular music session, Rhyme Time, which takes place every Monday. Contact the Library on 01584 810285 for more details.

The national press reported at the end of last year that young children who take music classes have advanced brain development and improved memory compared with those that do not. This may be true, but what is definitely clear is that all the children that participate in music classes in the Teme Valley have a fantastic time singing and playing together.

For more information or to receive a copy of our free monthly newsletter 'Teme Valley Views' please contact the Teme Valley Children's Centre on 01886 812982.

Martley Library

Martley Village Hall, Berrow Green Road, Martley, WR66PQ.

Tel: 01886 888396

Opening hours

Mon 2.00-7.00

Wed 4.00-7.30

Thurs 10.00-1.00

Fri 2.00-4.00

Sat 10.00-12 noon

Martley Parish Council

Meeting held on Monday, January 8, 2007 at the Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp, Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor, Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear, Cllr. Mr. J. Slough, Cllr. Mr. N. Stammers, Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh, Cllr. Mr. G. Coombey-Jones, Cllr. Mrs. M. Randall, Cllr. Mr. M. Nott. In attendance: T. Pearsall (clerk to the Parish Council), 7 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a happy New Year.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

The chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about parish business;

The hedges at the top of Ankerdine are still causing a problem to wide vehicles; the Clerk to write to Highways again (the location is just outside the parish boundary).

There is a substantial dip in the B4197 opposite the turn to Hockhams Lane, causing some vehicles to deviate from the correct lane; the Clerk to report to Highways.

The works at The Chantry have caused a large blue steel container to be sited within the conservation area; the Clerk to write to MHDC and the Head of Chantry School.

The Parish Council Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20:12 hrs.

Apologies: All were present, there were no apologies.

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests: The Clerk reminded every-

one of the need to declare interests and to keep their list up to date. No interests were declared. Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 4 (CALC subscription) being the Worcestershire CALC chairman.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th. December 2006: It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

CALC Subscription: Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room. Vice Chairman Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor took the chair. The Clerk presented the latest subscription requirements. It was resolved to accept the increase and pay the subscription with a caveat to the letter saying that further substantial increases could not be accepted. A cheque for £285.13 was signed.

Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp returned to the meeting and resumed the chair.

Waste Bins: The Clerk is to present price for the bins, signs and information board at the next meeting.

Lengthman Scheme: The Clerk presented a report on the Steering Group meeting attended on 19th. Dec 06. The Clerk announced that he would not be attending any further meetings due to the ill tempered nature of this one. It was noted that the funding for the scheme would be reduced from £4200.00 to £2000.00. The clerk to discuss with the Lengthman and Highways to determine if the reduced expenditure can be targeted at the winter months.

District Councillor's Report: District Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams said that

the festive period is quiet, but one positive item was the agreement to retain the two planning committees for the present.

County Councillor's Report: County Councillor Mr. A. Davies mentioned three items:

1. Consultation had taken place on budget matters.
2. The Regional Spatial Strategy meeting would take place at Hallow.
3. WCC have not accepted Whitehall's invitation to move to a unitary authority.

Correspondence:

Correspondence for 8th. January. 2007.

1. Martley Memorial Hall: Letter thanking PC for donation.
2. WCC: Invitation to participate in a workshop on the WM Regional Spatial Strategy on 18th. Jan.
3. MPC: Letter to The Crown ref. lighting.
4. Rockford Consulting: Enquiry about publications on walking, cycling and riding; information required by 17th. Jan.
5. WCC P3: Application forms for P3 scheme 2007/8 reply required 30th. March 2007.
6. WCC Public Path Orders: Diversion of BW MT 506 and BW SH 551 (Rodge Hill Fm.) amendment.
7. Martley Memorial Hall: Invoice for electricity (Finance).
8. MHDC: Planning (Developer Contributions SPD) confirmation of adoption.
9. WCC: 'Phone call to confirm

payments of Lengthman invoices for Sept & Oct; ref MPC letter to Highways 12/12/06.

10. West Mercia Police Authority: "Your Police Service in 2007 and Beyond" invitation to consultation evening 16th. Jan 7pm at Hindlip Hall.

11. WCC: Time table changes to local buses from 2nd. Jan.

12. WCC: Minerals & Waste Development Framework; adoption of Statement of Community Involvement.

13. Vision 21: Annual Conference Feb 28th. 10am-4pm, The Bank House Bransford.

14. Lloyds Bank PLC: Notification of incorrect cheque number, now corrected (Finance).

15. Clerks & Councils Direct: Jan 2007.

16. WCC: Feedback from Highway Maint. Scrutiny workshop 23rd. Nov. 2006

17. WCALC: Information bulletin

18. WCC: "A guide to re-use".

19. WCC: "Partnership Matters" and Geopark.

20. Parish Link: Cheque and letter winding up Parish influence.

Planning:

Applications received:

1. Land adjacent to The Cottage Jury Lane; 3- 2 bed, 2 storey houses: Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp. Plus amended plans (08Jan07). It was resolved to accept the proposal with the comments that; all work should be within normal working hours and a sign be placed within the development warning of pedestrians to exiting traffic.

2. LBC Bursar Cottage Laugherne Park; Change of use from garage to office: Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp. It was resolved to pass no comment.

Approvals/ refusals:

1. Cedar View Laugherne Park: replacement windows Refused.

2. Martley Court: modification to outbuilding Withdrawn

Finance:

There were 10 cheques totalling £2297.45 for agreement and signature (NB three extra cheques were signed at the Dec 06 meeting)

Income Dec 06: £0

Current Bank Balance
Lloyds TSB 20th. December 2006
£10,14.15

Actual position 8th. Jan 07
£7476.80

Deposit Acc Dec 06
£7532.58

It was resolved to adopt the finances.

Parish Paths Warden Report:

The report was not received until after the meeting, but is included for information in addendum 1.

Urgent Decisions since last meeting: There was none.

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

1. A report was made that three road signs had been damaged at Berrow Green; the Clerk to ask the Lengthman to investigate.

2. The drain on the corner of Hillside and Horn Lane is flooding; the Clerk to report to Highways.

3. The main door at Heaton House was left in an open state over night following entrance by the Fire Ser-

vices. Despite being reported to Elgar no emergency work was undertaken until the following day. The Clerk to write to Elgar Housing.

4. Highways have closed roads in Martley several times recently with no formal notification to this Council; the Clerk to write to Highways.

5. There are two potholes near Row End Berrow Green Road; the Clerk to report to Highways.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 5th. February 2007 at 8 p.m.

Addendum 1

Paths Warden's Report

December 2006

Meeting held with County Council early December clarified reporting and operational requirements under the new footpath scheme.

In December we tackled places near to Ham Bridge—Route 668, (joins B4204 2-300 metres Martley side of Ham Bridge). Stile top rail replaced, 4 new steps installed on field side and others made good where fill had eroded; loose roadside signpost fixed. Route 538, North-East side of Ham Bridge, signpost installed to replace previous one, badly damaged by a passing vehicle.

Route 671, close to river, near old Ham Mill weir, waymark post replaced

Refreshments, courtesy of Audrey Trumper. Thanks also to the PONS for acting as piano movers at The Chandlery, I've made a note of your efforts.

John Nicklin

What's on in February?

**Play - Billie Piper in Treats by
Christopher Hampton**

Venue: Malvern Theatres

Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 29 January 2007

To: 3 February 2007

Antiques Fair -

Venue: Three Counties Showground

E-Mail: info@threecounties.co.uk

Phone: 01636 702326

Website: [http://](http://www.dmgantiquefairs.com)

www.dmgantiquefairs.com

From: 4 February 2007

To: 4 February 2007

**Play - Jenny Seagrove & Anthony
Andrews in The Letter by Somerset
Maughan**

Venue: Malvern Theatres

Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 5 February 2007

To: 10 February 2007

**For Children - Shakespeare Schools
Festival**

Venue: Malvern Theatres

Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 7 February 2007

To: 8 February 2007

**Concert - Steven Isserlis & The
Philharmonia Orchestra**

Venue: Malvern Theatres

Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 10 February 2007

To: 10 February 2007

Concert - Isserlis & Friends

Venue: Malvern Theatres

Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 11 February 2007

To: 11 February 2007

**Play - Liza Goddard & John Bran-
well in If I Were You by Alan
Ayckbourn**

Venue: Malvern Theatres

Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 12 February 2007

To: 17 February 2007

**Concert - Treorchy Male Voice
Choir with David Kidd**

Venue: Malvern Theatres

Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 17 February 2007

To: 17 February 2007

**For Children - The Lost Forest
(puppets from West Java)**

Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 17 February 2007
To: 17 February 2007

**NT Event Croome Park - Winter
Birds Walk**

Venue: Croome Park
Phone: 01905 371006

Website: <http://tinyurl.co.uk/pci0>

From: 17 February 2007
To: 17 February 2007

Classic Twin Shock & Dirt Bike -

Venue: Three Counties Showground

Phone: 01789 751422

Website: <http://www.threecounties.co.uk>

From: 17 February 2007
To: 17 February 2007

**Play - French Without Tears by
Terrence Rattigan (English Touring
Theatre)**

Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 20 February 2007
To: 24 February 2007

Evening with... - Barry Norman

Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 22 February 2007

To: 22 February 2007

**Evening with... - Bob Kingdom in
The Truman Capote Talk Show**

Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 23 February 2007

To: 23 February 2007

Concert - Barbara Dickson

Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 24 February 2007

To: 24 February 2007

Boat Jumble -

Venue: Three Counties Showground

E-Mail: info@threecounties.co.uk

Phone: 01803 835915

Website: <http://www.threecounties.co.uk>

From: 25 February 2007

To: 25 February 2007

**For Children - Big Balloon by Tim
Webb**

Venue: Malvern Theatres
Phone: 01684 892277

Website: <http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

From: 28 February 2007

To: 3 March 2



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Day Centre News

The Christmas Fair raised over £400 towards the centre's running costs. Members enjoyed a splendid Christmas lunch and were each given a gift. Later they were entertained by Rev David Sherwin with his guitar and joined in with singing Christmas Carols.

Christmas Whist Drive

The Christmas whist drive in aid of Wichenford Memorial Hall raised £101. The organisers thank everyone who generously gave prizes and all those who made mince pies. Everyone was delighted to welcome back Hazel Nicholls who is a mainstay of the whist drives. Thanks go to Derrick Jinks for decorating the hall that adds so much to all our Christmas events.

Wichenford Millennium Green

The AGM of the Wichenford Millennium Green will be held on Monday 5th March at 7.30pm at the Wichenford Memorial Hall.

Please come and let us have your thoughts for new projects for the



Janet Andrews
01886 888303

Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Millennium Green, and hear our ideas for a new wildlife and educational corner.

We have planted three sacks of bulbs around the edges of the green which should give a wonderful display in the spring. We will re-plant the raised beds when the weather gets a bit better.

Woman's World Day of Prayer

This year the service will be held on Friday 2 March at 2pm at St Thomas Church, Crown East. The speaker will be Dr Grace Emerson.

Wichenford 100 Club

December winner: L Webb. Ticket 90. £100.

Wichenford Open Gardens

We also hope Janet Andrews has included the dates for Open Gardens this year? If not, could you include the

dates which are 23rd and 24th June and we are still looking for people to open their gardens. If they would like to open - contact Alan Green on 01886 888158.

Millennium Green tidying and inspection rota

February: G. Britten-Long.

Open Gardens Cookery Book

As a part of Open Gardens this year, we are putting together a Wichford Open Gardens Cookery Book. We are looking for your favourite recipes for inclusion. Could you send them please to Colin at Whitegates - all recipes gratefully received!

Colin Hughes

Te1: +44 01886 888158

Mob: 0780 307 7121

Bluebell ride in Wichford

I would like to re-create the Bluebell cross-country ride which used to be an Annual event some years ago. This was held on the farm, starting in the field next to the Church, and covering about a 10-12 mile course through the woods and across fields. Ponies, hunters, eventers, dressage horses and even polo ponies entered the cross country: Everyone loved it, and riding through the woods when the bluebells were in full flower in May was a sight and scent never to be forgotten.

May 7th this year is the Bank Holiday Monday, and we would probably go

for that date, depending on what other Horsey events are on in the area.

Sadly we haven't done it for a few years as the wonderful people who organised it have now left the village. However, we seem to have more horses than ever in the area, and I am looking for about four or five people, particularly from the pony-club etc. world, to put it together again this year.

We at the Farm will make the jumps and create the course, (with a bit of advice from those in the know), but I need a good team to organise it. We should easily be able to raise over £5,000 for local charities.

Please can you ring me on 07767 788 273 or email on gblwicheford@aol.com if you would be prepared to lend a hand and be part of this really fun event.

Georgina Britten-Long

Kenswick and Wichford Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th December 2006 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichford.

Councillor K. Randall chaired the meeting. (Vice Chairman)

Present: Councillor J. Wells
Councillor J Panton; Councillor M. Andrews; Councillor H Rendall; Councillor D Stinton; Councillor A Chilvers

In Attendance: 2 Parishioners, Mrs S Sanders (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Democratic half hour/public question time.

The chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about parish business.

Parishioners from Kenswick Manor expressed their concern on the recent planning application that has been received for 5 Kenswick Manor, and the application that has just been received for Kenswick Manor Lodge. The residents association has written to the MHDC planning department with their concerns. The parish council agreed to do a site visit to both of these properties.

Apologies and approval of absence

Councillor N.Oldfield, (accepted)
Councillor Georgina Britten-Long (accepted).

Declaration of interest.

Councillor J Wells declared an interest in agenda item 10.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2006 were accepted and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Wells and seconded by Cllr Rendall.

Progress reports

Parish Lengthsman

Councillor Derek Prodger has contacted all parish councils in the Lengthsman scheme to tell them that the lengthsman budget for all parishes in the scheme will not be reduced.

Elgar Housing

The clerk had no reply to her letter of 31st October regarding the maintenance and grass cutting of several properties in Wichenford.

Planning

Applications considered since the last meeting:

Extension of existing residential accommodation into ancillary outbuildings. The Elms, Frenchlands Lane

The parish council would like as much as possible of the existing materials to be preserved, the footpath which runs outside the detached house and barns has no legal definition and a modification order is needed. No provision has been made for drainage.

Woodhall Farm, Wichenford. Demolition of modern farm buildings and the conversion of traditional farm buildings to residential use.

The parish council had concerns regarding the access road as it is only a single track road, and would like the existing current features to be maintained.

Timber garage. Orchard Cottage, Wichenford.

The parish council has no objection to this proposal.

Decisions made by MHDC407675. Severn Trent Water. (Construction of new sewerage pumping station) Approved.

06/01237/Ful. Colketts Farm. (Two storey side extension) Approved.

06/01266/Ful. Old School House, Wichenford. (Extension and lowering of 4 windows to front and rear.) Approved.

06/01330/Ful. Wichenford Millennium Green. (retrospective application to retain climbing frame) Approved

06/01273/Ful. Laugherne Hill, Wichenford. (Proposed stables and

ménage and widening of access to highway) Approved.

06/00744/OUT. The Elms, Frenchlands Lane . (Demolition of existing redundant cottages and the construction of one detached dwelling house) Approved.

Applications to be discussed:

06/01642/Ful. Proposed Conservatory for 5 Kenswick Manor.

06/01653/FUL.All weather sand equine ménage and access drive to existing barn and stables at Kenswick Manor Lodge.

The parish council arranged a site visit for 14th December at these locations.

Finance

The income/ expenditure account was discussed and accepted.

The balance up to the 31st July 2006 stands at £11,490.07.

There were 2 cheques totaling £905.20 for agreement and signature.

The acceptance of the finances was resolved.

Budget

The budget for 2007/2008 was accepted. It was agreed that the clerk write to MHDC with the precept request for £6,500.

The community grant scheme must be matched funded and it was agreed to see if The Millennium Green could benefit. (Cllr Randall)

Clerks salary and expenses

The clerk's salary and expenses from 1st August –30th November were agreed and accepted.

Kings Green (Management Plan)

It was resolved to put this item on the next agenda to give the parish council

time to approach the residents and get a census of opinion and explain what we propose to do. It was agreed that a definite plan of what going to happen should be agreed and a contractor should be paid to cut it.

Highways

B4204

The clerk has written to the highways department regarding the red surface treatment that was ordered in February 2006. In their reply the highways department say that there are significant problems with transferring the budget across to the new team. She also wrote and asked when the chevron will be replaced which was damaged by an accident in September.

WCC Highway Scrutiny Meeting

The clerk and Cllr Rendall reported that the meeting was well organised and very good. All present agreed that any work that is done on the highway should be supervised and done properly the first time.

Rosses lane/Guises Lane

An update from the County Council was read out. There are 5 outstanding objections to the orders, 3 of which are from user groups. If the objections are not withdrawn the orders will be required to be submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation.

The clerk was asked to write to the owner of Laughern House with regard to the overhanging hedge onto the highway.

Councillor Panton agreed to ring the highways department to report the large hole in the road at Holt Heath and to find out the legality of having

stones on the verges.

Lengthsman

It was reported that the lengthsman no longer lives in Wichenford and has moved to Bromyard. He can no longer fulfill his obligation as lengthsman and will send a letter of resignation. Once the letter has been received the vacancy will be advertised.

Councillors training

No one is able to attend the forthcoming training events. The clerk, Cllrs Rendall and Panton will be attending the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy in January 2007.

Correspondence included:

Lengthsman Correspondence, B4204, Elgar Housing letter from clerk, Letters regarding Calc subscriptions, Rosses/Guises lane Letter, Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two. Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan, Meadow Cottage correspondence. Countryside Voice. Budget Consultation Meeting.

For decision by the parish council.

Invitation to attend a workshop on the West Midland Spatial Strategy in January 2007.

The clerk was asked to accept the calc protocol. (clerk to send to chairman for acceptance and signature)

For information only.

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

Correspondence received after agenda was written will be distributed around the councillors for the next meeting.

The Community grant information was taken by Cllr Randall.

Councillor's reports and items for future agendas

Councillor Panton has received a reply from Coventry Airport regarding the increasing amount of air traffic in our area. Councillors were asked to report when they see one. A reply from Birmingham Airport has not yet been received.

Cllr Wells reported that the next Malvern Hills District Police Consultative group meeting is 17th January.

The clerk has contacted the new beat officer with dates of our meetings but has had no reply.

Date and venue of next meeting:

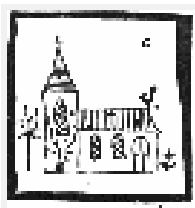
To confirm the date of the next meeting arranged for 29th January 2007 at 7.30pm

Meetings were arranged for 12th March at 7.30pm and 30th April, which will be the Annual Parish meeting and ordinary meeting combined.

District Councillors Report

Councillor Williams reported that she has attended a large meeting regarding developers' contributions for affordable housing. If 5 or more houses are built at least half have to be affordable. The affordability threshold for Malvern Hills is between £81,300 - £105,700; mid point of this is £93,500. The developer will put about £4,200 per house into education.

The County Council have allocated some money for dropped kerbs, some have been found in Martley and two pairs have been found in Wichenford. One pair outside the telephone box and the other the opposite side of the bus stop.



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 833897

It was a great joy and honour to be licensed, on 21st December, 2006, by Bishop David Walker as Associate Priest in the Benefice of Martley, Wichenford and The Lower Teme Valley.

During the service I was presented with a Prayer Book and invited to "Be among us as one who prays and teach us to pray". We are already seeking to underpin all that happens across the Benefice with prayer, and to grow a greater understanding of our connecting with God. To this end our Lent Course in 2007 will focus on prayer.

"I don't know how to pray!", "I can't pray!" are often words of despair that we hear from people. Yet prayer is such an important part of our Christian faith.

On our journey through life to our ultimate meeting with God, it is the foundation of the relationship that brings us ever closer to him. In any relationship, communication is vital. Prayer is about this two way process, we with him and he with us. Just as there are different ways in which we keep in touch with friends and family across the world, so there are many ways in which we can approach God.

Many, many people express their conviction that prayer has really helped

them, especially in difficult and distressing circumstances. The result of a caring, praying community upholding its members in prayer can be tangible. If in



doubt, try it. Prayer can and does work, perhaps not always as we might hope but God does hear and respond.

Lent courses will be held at different times across the Benefice from the week beginning 26th February until Easter - 5 sessions, 1 each week. If you are interested in exploring prayer and developing your experience of God come and join one of our groups. For details call me on 01886 833897.

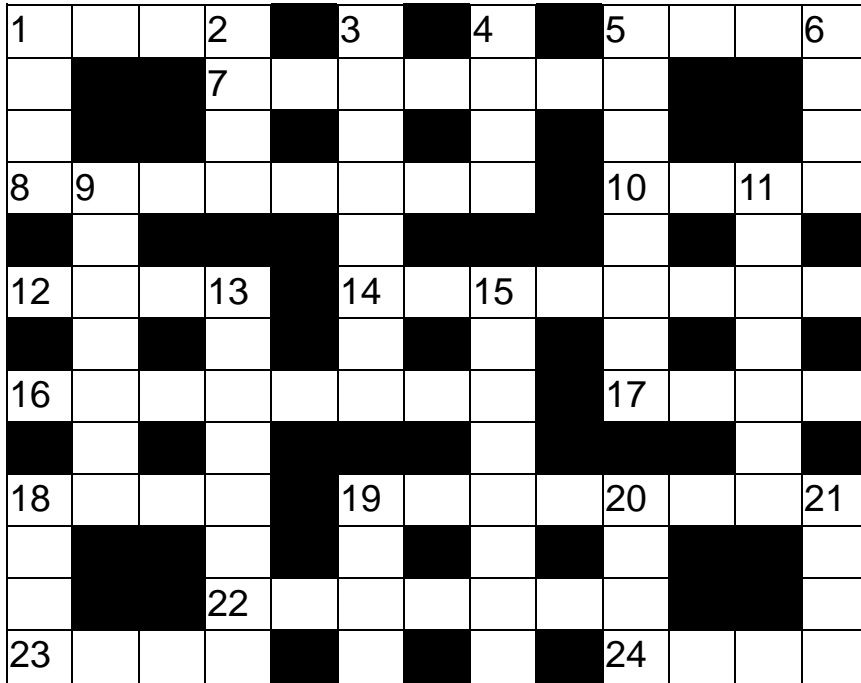
The word Lent means 'Spring', the season of new shoots and growth. Let's use this Lent to spring forward in our understanding of prayer and what it can mean to each one of us in terms of a new understanding and of growth in our spiritual life.

Jennifer Whittaker (Assistant Priest)

Church Diary for February

Sunday 4th February	8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel 9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.00am Family Worship + Baptism, St Peter, Martley 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Monday 5th February	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 7.45pm Wichenford PCC
Thursday 8th February	2.00pm Little Minnows at St Peter ?
Sunday 11th February	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.00am Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.00am HC + Healing, St Peter, Martley 4.00pm Celebration of Marriage Service, St Peter, Martley
Wednesday 14th Feb	10.15 Holy Communion at Heaton House
Sunday 18th February	8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 11.00am Morning Worship, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel
Monday 19th February	9.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter, Martley 7.30pm Martley PCC, venue tba
Shrove Tuesday	Event to be held within the Benefice
Wednesday 21st Feb	10.00am Holy Communion at St Laurence, Wichenford
Ash Wednesday	7.30pm Holy Communion at St Peter, Martley 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
Week commencing 26th February:	Lent Groups start this week
Wednesday 28 th Feb	10.15 Holy Communion at Heaton House

Take a Break



ACROSS;

- 1.REPAIR (4)
- 5.TRIAL (4)
- 7.STEWARD OF AHAB (8)
- 8.SORTS OF POEMS (8)
- 10.DESTRUCTION (4)
- 12.RISE HIGH (4)
- 14. ---- ---- GUIDE (4 4)
- 16.STAND ACROSS (8)
- 17.BAR (4)
- 18.A GANG IN 'WEST SIDE STORY' (4)
- 19.ACTIVATES (8)
- 22.PERSON WHO OFFERS LITTLE RESISTANCE (7)
- 23.BACK OF THE NECK (4)
- 24.TRAVEL BY BOAT (4)

DOWN;

- 1.COUNTRY IN THE BIBLE (4)
- 2.PRETTY WOMAN (slang) (4)
- 3.COVERED A WOUND (8)
- 4.PREJUDICE (4)
- 5.ACOLYTE (8)
- 6.SLIM (4)
- 9.ARDENT SUPPORTER (7)
- 11.WORSHIP (7)
- 13.VERGE (8)
- 15.EXTRA WORK (8)
- 18.GOSPEL (4)
- 19.ON TOP OF (4)
- 20.BOOK OF THE NT (4)
- 21.HE BECAME A FOLLOWER OF JESUS (4)

Village Contacts



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