

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 17 No. 8

January 2008

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

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

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

3rd Sunday in the month:

Path-or-Nones. Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help maintain the footpaths

Mondays

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

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)

Martley Mums & Tots 9.30-11.30am
Martley Memorial Hall

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 Talbot, Knightwick

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

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

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

Weight Watchers: 6.30pm -7.30pm
Martley Memorial Hall

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)

See page 29 for contact details of organisations

The cover picture is by Jessica Titshall of Martley C of E Primary School, winner of the Winter Scene picture for Martley Christmas Fair November 2007.

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



Martley Christmas Fair

The Martley Village Hall Committee and their junior offspring spent the afternoon of Saturday 24 November putting up festive lights and decorating the Christmas tree – kindly donated by Mr Malcolm Clarke—so that everything was ready and colourful for the following day. The weather was much kinder than it had been during the previous week and so incited people to pop in and have a go on the tombola, buy holly and mistletoe, cakes and cards and all the other goodies on offer, guess the weight of a cake, or buy a raffle ticket in the hope of winning a turkey.

The bar room was adorned with the artwork of the Primary School, the children had fun dipping marshmallows into a chocolate fountain while the adults enjoyed mulled wine and a mince pie. This enjoyable afternoon raised £615 for the Hall funds. The Committee wishes to thank all those who donated prizes or gave up their Sunday afternoon and, of course, all those who turned up and supported this local event.

Beth Williams

Martley Show - 2008?

Do you want a Martley Show in 2008? If so we need your help !

The Martley Show Committee needs a new secretary - without one there will be no Show in 2008. To drum up more support for the event and the Committee, there will be a meeting at the Village Hall on Tuesday 15 January at 8pm. We are looking for more Committee members, new ideas and events so everyone is welcome. The Committee would like to thank Helen Coombey-Jones for her hard work as Secretary for the last three years.

If you are interested in joining but cannot attend the meeting, please call our Show Committee Chairman, Eileen Stammers on 01886 888513

Martley Library

Please note that, as from 1 January 2008, the library will be open only until 6pm (not 6.30pm) on Wednesdays. About forty local people use the library on a regular basis every week. Why not pay a visit? If you are

looking for a book which is not on the shelf here, you can always order it, and it will arrive within a very few days.



Martley WI

Wednesday 9 January 2008 7.30pm
Heaton House

The speaker this month is Meg Farmer "101 children" telling of 20 years of fostering. The competition is for "A modern nursery rhyme". Sheila Craker was the winner for 2007 with most points for competition entries and wins during the year. We hope she enjoys spending her voucher.

We have been rather put out by the image given in various newspapers recently of the WI members as old and rather staid. Sorry if we give that impression. Judging by the noise and jollity to be heard at our meetings on the second Wednesday in the month, we cannot think that applies to us! Of course we like doing the traditional crafty things, visiting various places of interest, taking part in quizzes, supporting local fund-raising efforts with home-made cakes and visiting neighbouring institutes to name a few, but we do other things. Chris Smith has recently done a parachute jump for charity and other members do equally exciting and interesting things. The

reports that the Trotshill Totties have been formed in Worcester so that members can be younger and do more active and interesting things, were a bit strange. Under the umbrella of the WI so much is on offer.

We are considering becoming Martley Movers or the Martley Mavericks. If anyone wants to give us a try, then just come along and find out. New suggestions and members always welcome.

Kate King



"Mark my words, it'll all end in tears."

Martley Spurs

Most of the first rounds of the various cup-ties have been played, so we are now back to regular league games again. 4 November saw the Saturday Premier League beat Pershore Manor Reserves 4-1. The next morning the Spurs Reserves played AFC Mazak in the Worcester Junior Cup round one but lost, as did their other eleven in the same tournament, against Droitwich

Spa; even though Scott Morris netted a pair, they managed to get past the Spurs goalie four times. The 10th saw the Saturday Premier side draw one all with Worcester YMCA. The Sunday Premier eleven lost to Archdales and the Reserves were truly thrashed by Barbourne the next morning.

The third weekend of November looked better when the Saturday team beat Hallow WMC 3-1 and the Sunday Premier lads overcame Arrow 2000 3-2, but the Reserves succumbed to Malvern Radar. The results for the final games of the month were not available to me when this was written.

Beth Williams

Pre-School Snippets



On 20 December all the children, staff and parents visited Ray's Farm. We enjoyed meeting all the animals and a special man in a red suit.

This trip was made possible by the funds raised at the Christmas fayre on the 8 December. Thank you for your support. The trip ended an eventful term, having our OFSTED in October (in which we did very well), and our topic for part of term was 'dinosaurs'. The children took part in activities such as a dinosaur bone hunt, they made fossils, painted with natural materials and made a huge dinosaur for our dinosaur land, and much more...This term we are covering the

topic of Festivals.

We are very proud to announce that we have gained our bronze award as an eco-setting and a sustainable lifestyle. We would like to thank everyone who helped us achieve this and continue to do so as we aim for silver later this coming year. We have also recently been awarded just under £5000 by the National Lottery which has paid to install new doors, some windows and a ramp for access to the building.

A very warm welcome to Elizabeth Hudson, Jacob Hawkins and James Pinches who all start pre-school.

Remember, children can attend Pre-School from two years old. They learn through play and fun activities. They do not have to be out of nappies, and from the term after their third birthday they are entitled to 15 free hours funded by the government.

Call in or phone 01886 889127 and speak to Kath for more information.

Don Taylor Memorial

It has been two years since we lost a great character and friend of Martley and the wider community. Along with his family, we all miss his presence amongst us. In talking to the family, we have agreed that there should be a memorial made in Don's name.

Don was always involved with the community in many and varied ways. In the recent past, he helped on the committee for the celebrations for Queen Elizabeth's golden jubilee.

During that time, it was hoped that we could replace the lower churchyard gates to match the upper churchyard gates, which were made in celebration of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. The lower gates would have ER crests upon them, as the upper gates have VR. It was Don's desire that this should happen. However, funds were not available to do it.

Don's family, together with the church, have made preparations for the gates to be made but the project will cost least £3,000. It is hoped that there are those in the community who wish to make a contribution towards this cause and would like to be associated with this memorial to Don Taylor. If you would like to make a donation, please send it to Rev'd D Sherwin at Martley Rectory. Cheques should be made payable to St Peter's Church Martley, marked on the back "for Don Taylor memorial gates" and any other monies should please have an accompanying note.

Rev'd David Sherwin

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 13 January 2pm
Church par park

We start 2008 with a short walk around Lower Wick, led by Gill Strudwick. Let us keep our fingers crossed for a pleasant afternoon and no floods.

At the recent AGM, Harry King was re-elected Chairman and Pam Bowers was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer. As

Pam's books showed a slight profit, it was agreed to keep the subscription at £1 per head, £2 per family, not bad considering the cost of most things nowadays.

The Chairman and Secretary will be sampling some local hostellers, looking for a



venue for the annual dinner in February. They will not be trying to use up the small profit. Actually, it is too small to run to that. Members will be notified of walk dates, times and areas shortly.

The walks are obviously not restricted to members only, and no age restrictions. Just put on your boots and turn up at Martley Church car park. Starting time is usually 2pm although times do vary slightly depending on the venue. Details are in *The Villager* and on the Martley website or ring the Chairman on 01886 888439.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

Yet another farewell to note. Is it something we said? Barbara Williams and Elizabeth are moving to Tenbury

Broadheath and we shall certainly miss them. Barbara will, of course, be continuing as a Malvern Hills District Councillor



and as a Governor of the Primary School. Hopefully, it will not be too long before we welcome a new family to The Coppice. Otherwise life continues fairly quietly up to the time of writing, with the lane bedding down for winter.

Lay-by Operative's finds recently have included a large tub of industrial wipes that are proving very useful. The usual Vodka bottles have now gone from half size to full size. Was the consumer increasing his/her consumption in preparation for the Christmas excesses? It does not really matter as long as the operative does not find the consumer as well lying amongst the debris.

Breaking news: following on from the report in the December issue of *The Villager*, your correspondent was contacted by 'George' and this has resulted in the collection of the heavy-duty steel trunking. George very kindly gave a generous donation that will be used to purchase tins of food for MAGS. For anyone else with a similar problem of unwanted scrap they may contact George on 01886-888061.

Martley & District Horticultural Society

The AGM was held on 29 November in the Memorial Hall and Chairman Ray Ellis welcomed all present and joined President Pat Finch in thanking everyone, especially the committee, for their hard work throughout the

year. He followed with a report on the various meetings, local visits and shows, mentioning in particular the Spring Show, a super visit to Highgrove, the plant sale and the Annual Show.

Ray remarked what a difficult year it had been for gardening. One garden visit had to be cancelled owing to the floods, but the Flower Show goes from strength to strength – again record numbers of entries in the classes in spite of a wet day. The officers and committee were all elected “en bloc”, with Elaine Rice joining the committee. Reg Snow remains as independent auditor of the accounts. It was decided to donate £100 to the Village Hall, £50 to the Millennium Green and £50 to the Air Ambulance. Dave Cropp reported that the Society's stall at the recent Christmas Fair made £65 – well done to Margaret Jackson, Pauline Smith and Margaret Rushgrove who “manned” it.

Tasty refreshments were enjoyed by everyone after the business meeting. Hyacinth bulbs were given out for the March meeting competition and RHS raffle tickets were sold – first prize £3000!

The committee will meet at the home of Ray and Pauline Ellis on 14 Jan at



7.30pm. The first meeting of 2008 will be on 31 January in the Memorial Hall. The speaker will be Sheila Sheldon on "Seasons of the Wyre Forest". New members welcome – the subscription is only £2.50 so the Society is extremely good value!

Tina Steele

Goodbye to Michael Morris

Over the last seven years Michael Morris has mown the football pitch and playing field of Martley free of charge and using his own tractor. I am sure all locals will agree he has kept it very nice and tidy for the village over the years. Unfortunately, Michael and his wife Lil have now moved to Lower Broadheath and so Michael will no longer be mowing the playing field. The Spurs players and officials wish to express their sincere thanks to Michael for all the fine work he put in on the pitch and playing field over the years. We would also like to thank the directors of Taylor's of Martley for kindly providing the fuel for Michael's tractor. Many thanks also to I.S.D Coldstore of Gloucester and Andy Walton of Estate Preservation, Hillside, Martley for sponsoring the club with footballs.

Gordon Griffiths, Chairman

Martley Parish Council

Meeting held on Monday 5 November 2007. The Chairman presented Mr and Mrs King and Mr and Mrs Snow with their Freedom of Martley awards on

behalf of Martley Parish Council. Chairman also acknowledged Roy Oakey who had received his award earlier that evening at his home address.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 20:07pm. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2007 were accepted as a true record.

PC G Jones: The Community Support Officer for Martley attended on behalf of PC Jones as PC Jones has moved back to Response at Malvern. He discussed: Weighbridge security – No longer deemed an issue. Scrap thefts – Continue to be vigilant. Distraction burglaries – These seem to have quietened down. Anti-social behaviour – seems to have quietened down. PC Jones' replacement should be in post within a few weeks. Police surgeries will take place at 11-1pm every Thursday at the weighbridge and every Friday at Great Witley Doctors Surgery, but would be cancelled if police presence was required at a serious incident. He is leaving to commence training as a Police Officer and introduced his replacement, who has the same contact details. He was advised that parking on pavements is still an issue in Martley and he will speak to the main offenders. He confirmed that a police representative will be at the forthcoming youth event. Councillor Williams congratulated him for the excellent service he had given to Martley.

District Councillor's report: Councillor Mrs. B. Williams referred

to South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy's aim to build a further 4900 dwellings in the Malvern area by 2026. Councillor Mrs. B. Williams and Councillor Mrs. E. Rothwell gave a brief summary of the youth event that they attended at Martley High School, which identified children's concerns and needs within the village. Play equipment: Len Hoskins reported that all equipment was working as it should be. Equipment will not be replaced at present due to the on-going vandalism that the equipment has suffered over the last twelve months. The annual inspection is due in 3-4 months. Len and others went to look at all play areas within a 6 mile radius of Martley and he reported that none were any better than Martley's. If in the next year the level of vandalism decreases, they might spend on the play area. Len would be happy for the play-scheme vehicles to be parked in the playing field but thought the car park at the school might be more appropriate.

Councillor Hall's update: Councillor Hall reported that Cllr. Davies, he and Roger Woodward, Chief Safety Officer at Worcester County Council, met on the 17 September 2007 to walk the school run. It was quiet that morning but Roger was still able to foresee the problems and suggested the following: 1) Formal pedestrian crossing installed. 2) public path to the school to be cleared (now done). 3) Amend road signs to read 20mph. 4) Re-route the paths around the back of

the school. 5) Educate parents on how to ease the difficulties. Councillor Hall to invite Roger Woodward to a meeting to discuss suggestions. Councillor Cropp explained Community Call for Action and the implications of the white paper which is currently under consultation and asked councillors to bear this in mind.

Section 137 funding: Millennium Green Trust: Plans still awaited. Nora Parsons Day Centre: The Parish Council to allocate funds of £300.00. Martley Village Memorial Hall: The Parish Council will pay £467.00 + VAT to enable the village hall to re-fit a pair of double doors. Martley Pre-school: Councillor Hall and The Clerk to ascertain details of a future specific project that they might need funding for. Martley Playing Fields Association: The Parish Council agreed to cover the insurance for the following year (£542.05). Other Charities: i) Air Ambulance ii) Macmillan Nurses iii) Citizens Advice Bureau. Clerk to report at the next meeting how much The Parish Council funded last year and they will then agree an allocation for each charity. The Council also confirmed that £25.00 for the Remembrance Day Wreath will be given.

Planning: Applications received: October 2007. 07/01390/FUL Hawkenest Farm, Easing Hope Lane Open leisure pool in existing landscape . 07/01463/FUL 07/01467/LBC The Old Smithy, Martley Demolish single storey, erect two

storey, lean-to garage and loft over. 07/01610/TCN Martley Court Fell four ash trees. 07/01633/FUL Treetops, Hillside Proposed replacement of existing building. Approvals/refusals: 07/01255/FUL Admiral Rodney 8 letting rooms/new alley Refused. 07/01327/FUL Hillside Farm Single storey extn. Approved.

Correspondence: Included MHDC Landscape Officer – Trees at Martley Court. MHDC Landscape Officer – Tree on Badger Close. MHDC Waste and Recycling Update – September. Richard Britton – Tree trunk Laugherne Brook – Reported to WCC. West Mercia – Weight restriction at Ankerdine Hill. Marstons – Purchase of land

Urgent decisions since the last meeting: A letter was written to Worcester County Council and West Mercia Police about the weight limit restriction at Ankerdine Hill.

Councillor's reports: 1) For future applications, Clerk to check if details exist of past applications for the same property. 2) Clerk to add Lengthsman invoices to the agenda for the next meeting. 3) Chair confirmed the caravan at The Admiral Rodney as temporary. 4) Clerk to investigate whether the council can stop authorising new stiles on public paths and ascertain the cost of the works being undertaken on Scar Bank. 5) Clerk to chase up investigation of the trees on Church Lane which are hanging over the telephone lines, as Hopehouse Farm cannot get their

machinery down the lane. 6) Clerk to chase missing signs for Pudford Lane (Sawmills Lane side) and Hopehouse Lane. 7) People were asked to ensure that they pick up any mess when exercising their dogs, especially on footpath between Millenium Green and Church Lane. 8) Clerk to write to Bromyard Bus Company about buses stopping outside The Crown Public House instead of at the bus stop further down the road. 9) Chairman to follow up the Freedom of Martley Board with Tom Pearsall. 10a) Councillor Mrs. E. Rothwell informed The Parish Council that she has applied for a grant for youth. She will meet Amanda Smith and Mark Hammond (MHDC) to ask for an assessment to ascertain and approve the best location in Martley to house the one-day mobile parks during the school holidays. Suggestions are the playing field or school car park. On 12 December she will attend a follow-up meeting to the one held at the school in October. 10b) Caplor homes have confirmed that the houses will be approximately £185,000. This is not the affordable housing that Councillor Rothwell had been led to believe! 10c) Councillor Rothwell was a guest speaker at the National Standards Board recently which she found to be a good experience. 11) Councillor Mr. G. Coombey-Jones is to look into planning applications from Treetops and Martley Court and give details to The Clerk. 12) Clerk to write to Mrs Fennell in relation to overgrown

hedgerows restricting visibility when turning left onto Horn Lane.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting is on Monday 3 December at 8pm. Meeting closed at 22:35.

Basil Haines Memorial Sundial

It has been some time since we made a request for help in raising money for this project. I am pleased to say that the required amount has now been received, with donations from both Church and community.

You might wonder why it has not yet appeared on the side of the Church building – this is because discussions are still being held with architects and Local Authorities concerning the way it is mounted. We hope very soon to be able to announce a date when it will finally be in position for all to enjoy and remember a great character of Martley.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rev'd David Sherwin

Harvest Supper

Don't worry - we know we've only just had Christmas, but just wanted to let you know that the Harvest supper for 2008 has been booked for 7.00pm *Saturday 4 October*.

The organising group would also like to let you know that due to low attendance at the event in 2007, we managed only to break even, therefore

we will be unable to make the usual contribution to charity.

The group would also like to ask any people out there who would like to help organise the event, to speak to Reverend David Sherwin. Some would like to feel it is an event that will continue to be an important part of village life and run for many years to come.

Thank you to those who helped make this years event a great success, despite lower numbers than usual.

Martley WI Secretary's Annual Report

Membership for the year November 2006 to October 2007 is standing up well and we welcomed new member Annette Smith. Unfortunately this year we lost a long-standing member, Phyllis Dorrell, who died in February. At the AGM Gwynneth Darby was re-elected as President.

We had a varied programme of speakers throughout the year, the subjects ranging from Garth Lowe on the "Knapp & Papermill Reserve" to Jane Richards telling us about her trip from the Amazon to the Antarctic.

The June garden meeting was held at the home of Joy and Reg Snow. Unfortunately, due to the dreadful weather and the floods, our annual outing in August of a cruise on the River Avon had to be cancelled. Members provided the usual cake stall at the annual Horticultural Show and Fete; this also hit by dreadful weather.

With high winds and heavy rain, the gazebo that had been bought for the occasion wasn't quite up to the job. However this didn't affect our takings! At the County Spring Rally Sheila Craker obtained top marks for her minimalist flower arrangement and Pat Crook received a Highly Commended medal for her decorative box.

Our members attended many County events – “Christmas is Coming” where they enjoyed demonstrations of how to make a folded box, how to make a Nativity Scene and Christmas recipes and some went on the Group Outing to Herefordshire's Black and White Villages, led by Brian Draper, in September. Sheila Craker was sponsored by Martley WI to obtain her First Aid Certificate from the British Red Cross. Five members attended a variety of courses organised by the County at Denman College on a beautiful, hot weekend in June (a photograph of two of them appearing in the September edition of Worcester Life)

We have certainly had a very busy and happy year, and look forward to 2008.

Mary Kipping

Martley's Past

There was rarely a full attendance of 9 councillors at PC meetings in the 1930s. On Friday 23 December 1932 only 4 councillors were present at the regular quarterly meeting. I was surprised therefore to see the longest

minute recorded that I have found. An edited version follows: “Motor Bus Services. Reference was made that an appeal was to be made by the Mid Red Bus Co against permission granted to Mr G Burnham to run a bus service to Ankerdine on Thursdays and Sundays. Two councillors proposed that the following letter be sent to Mr Burnham: “This PC has heard that on appeal is being made against your Bus Service. They wish to support your public spirit in providing this service for the District for a great number of years and they regret to learn of Mid Red's application. They think the service is no way detrimental to Mid Red. On the contrary, it would often be to their advantage, in that most people prefer to return by another route, so, if going to Ankerdine, they may prefer to return to Worcester by Mid Red from Knightwick.

Apart from that, Ankerdine is one of the ‘show’ places in Worcs and the Midlands. Its scenery is unequalled – enjoyed by thousands (!) – and any rule or regulation interfering with its free access would be greatly deplored by this Council, and, in their opinion, would decidedly not be in the interest of the public”. Carried.



(I have a photo of a bus parked outside the tea rooms then existing roadside at Ankerdine.)

Alan Boon



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Church Flowers

6 January Mrs Webb
13 January Mrs S Richards
20 January Mrs S Richards
27 January Mrs J Andrews

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship will meet in the Memorial Hall, weather permitting, on 15 January at 2.30pm

PCC Meeting

The next meeting of the PCC is on 4 February at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall

Wichenford Local Heritage Group

“Wichenford-An Historic Landscape”: If any householder in Kenswick or Wichenford has NOT yet received their complimentary copy of this book, please contact a member of the committee or phone 01886 888239 to arrange delivery.

Unfortunately we have none for sale as it was produced with aid of a Heritage Lottery grant and we are duty bound to give them away to every householder in Kenswick &



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Wichenford. But, every member of the Heritage Group gets one, so as people join, they will be given one (or as people move into the village,-though that sounds a bit of a drastic step just to get hold of a copy!)

Wichenford 100 Club

November winners
No 4 M Fellows £75.00
(eturned subscriptions)
No.7 E Chappell £12.00
No. 115 S Murphy £12.00

It's Never Too Late to Join!

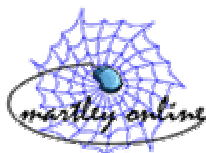
A big Thank You to all 214 members who have signed up to date. 11 members' subscriptions are still outstanding and, if you know it's you, please do get in touch as soon as possible. If all the money is in by the 3rd week in December, the top Prize next month should increase to £80, if not £85! If even more new members join, then it could be even larger! Contact the Secretary on 01886 888 239. So far it has been a story of beginner's luck with a main prize

going to a new member and this month a prize going to someone who purchased their number a mere 6 hours before the draw!

Millennium Resolution

At the start of a New Year, it might be the time to remember our New Year Millennium Resolution: Let there be respect for the earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs and from now on a new start.

Parish Council goes Online!



The draft minutes of the Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council meetings are now available on the Martley website (www.martley.org) – just follow the link on the home page.

Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12 December 2007 in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford. The meeting date was changed from 8 November 2007. Councillor G Britten Long chaired the meeting. **.Democratic half hour/ public question time.**

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

Apologies and approval of absence: Councillor N Oldfield and Councillor D Stinton.

Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Stinton sent a letter of resignation as vice-chairman of the council but wishing to remain a parish councillor. It was resolved to elect Cllr Randall as vice chairman.

District and County Councillors Report

Councillor Williams urged Councillors to complete the SWJCS paper and attend the open sessions, as shown on a flyer in The Villager magazine and advertised on the notice board. Option two is recommended with 32,000 houses by 2026, and 4,900 later. The Malvern Hills District Consultation will be 5-7 December and completed questionnaires must be in by 14 December. The issue of affordable housing is being considered. A young people's conservation event was held at the Chantry High School and was led by extended services, to establish what services are available and in use; and what could be improved. County Councillor Davies reported that the public inquiry on Rosses and Guises Lanes went well and we are awaiting the result. The grant of £3,500 available to help children services in the area proved a great success with 11 applications received. Unfortunately Wichenford's application was turned down. We can try again after April 2008.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1

October 2007 were amended, then accepted and signed as a true record.

Progress Reports

Responsibility for Hedges and fences: it is still unclear about the fence and abandoned cars. The clerk is to contact Festival Housing again for clarification. Litter picking: Saturday 8 December will be used collect litter in the parish. Notice board in Kenswick: the parish council thinks this is a good idea in principle but cannot get a board at present.

Planning

Applications considered since the last meeting. 07/01544/FUL. Extension to barn. Ridgend Barn, Wichenford. 07/01466/FUL Retrospective permission sought for discrepancies at Laughern Brook House, Wichenford. Decisions made by MHDC: 07/01110/FUL Change of use of agricultural barns to light industrial/storage at Allsetts Farm. Refused. Applications to be considered. 07/01529/Ful. Single Storey extension at Midsummer Barn, Wichenford. The parish council arranged a site visit for 13 October.

Finance

The income/expenditure accounts were discussed and accepted.

Nora Parsons Day Centre

A report on the Day Centre was discussed. The Day Centre was leased to the parish council for 21 years in 1984 and sub-let to the trustees of the day centre 6 months later. The rental amount was based on the costs of maintaining the building. A statement of dilapidations has been issued to the

parish council from the Diocesan Board of Finance as the lease expired in 2005 and nothing has been done since. A meeting is being set up with the Day Centre Committee. Dixon Stinton has resigned t as chairman of the management committee and the parish council have arranged a meeting with the Worcestershire Diocesan Board of Finance to discuss the future of the Day Centre as they want to increase the rent, which might require other parishes to contribute to the running costs. The council is adamant that they will not increase the precept to cover the dilapidations, but would like to increase the contingency budget to £500.

Correspondence.

Included: Malvern Hills District Council Business Rate Relief form - discussed and agreed to find out further information from the district council; Malvern Hills Flooding response to be completed by Cllr Rendall; the parish council resolved to have its abbreviated minutes published on the Martley web site..

Councillor's Reports and Items For Future Agendas

Wichenford Memorial Hall Finances. Nora Parsons Day Centre update. Budget.

The clerk has been contacted by Martley parish council regarding overhanging trees at Laughern Hill and Castle Hill. (Chair to investigate and inform residents)

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed to cancel the December

meeting but bring forward the next meeting to 14 January. Meetings were arranged for 14 January and 10 March 2008. All will be held in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford at 7.30pm Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Joke

They were looking down into the depths of the Grand Canyon "Do you know" asked the guide, "that it took millions and millions of years for this great abyss to be carved out?" "Well, blow me" said the traveller, "I never knew this was a Government job".

Genuine cracker jokes

Q. Why hasn't anyone ever stolen a canal?

A. *Too many locks!*

Q. What do you call a woman who balances glasses of beer on her nose?

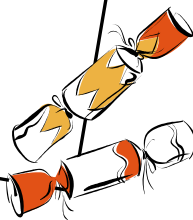
A. *Beatrix*

Q. What did one tomato say to the other?

A. *You go on ahead and I'll ketchup!*

Q. How do you make a bandstand?

A. *Take away their chairs!*



Burns Night Supper
Friday 25 January 2008

Wichenford Memorial Hall, Venn Lane Wichenford 7:30pm for 8pm

A fun evening around the traditional Burn's Night meal to celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns, Scotland's finest poet.

Local entertainment will follow the meal including songs, readings and poems of Robert Burns. There will be a short speech in appreciation of the poet's life and works.

All Welcome. Tickets £15 per head. Cash bar.

Only 60 tickets so please book soon to avoid missing out.

Please wear tartan on the night or dress to kill!

Tickets for the event from Sheila Richards tel: 01886 888378; Gill Richardson tel: 01905 425652 or James Hyslop: 01886 887805

This event is arranged by the local Church of England churches for the whole community. Any profit from the event will go to a local charity.

Martley Life in Former Times

The memoirs of Isabel Field

The Villager has been sent some most interesting writing about how life used to be in Martley. Many readers will already know Mrs Field, but for those who don't, here is a chance to gain insight into the history of our village.

The final part of Mrs Field's memoirs will be printed next month..

Childhood

I was born on a hot August afternoon in 1914. My mother had hoped for another boy – but there it was. My brother was five years older than myself and always I knew he was her favourite.

My mother was a midwife and general nurse of the villages. She was a very caring person. It always seemed that the babies arrived about midnight, so the bicycles came out and I usually went with her to help. Very few people had phones in those days. The ladies requiring help were country people and they had large families: one lady on the Hillside had twelve children. My mother's proud boast was that she never lost a baby at birth. My mother was the youngest of nineteen children and had to go into service to earn the money to buy her uniform. They were a large, happy family, and had meals with two sittings! She went to Newbury to do her training, and then she came to Worcestershire.

“My mother was the youngest of nineteen children”

There was much poverty in those days and people helped each other. When we came here to live, I visited an old lady who was afraid of my mother. She told me she had had a large family and one day had only bread for the children's tea, so she went to a field to take some swedes. She put three in her apron to give to the children on toast; however, she was caught by the farmer. He reported her, and she went before the magistrates, who used to meet at the workhouse. They gave her half a crown or “two and six,” twelve and a half pence in modern money, which nevertheless bought quite a lot in those days.

Martley was a small village. There was a shop that sold everything: vegetables, (though most people grew their own), milk, clothes, shoes, etc. The proprietor was Mr Walpole. If he didn't have something in stock, he would send away for it. There was also a butcher and a dressmaker in the village. There was a smithy in the black and white cottage where Rogers of Martley is now, and another smithy on the Hillside. A principal activity was the shoeing of horses. Children used to hold them during the process and get three pence for this. Most cottages kept a pig, and the meat helped to keep them going through the winter. The doctor was only sent for in urgent cases.

There came the end of the Great War. Of those men who survived and

returned, so many came home utterly shattered, not merely physically but psychologically. There were a number of suicides in consequence, and I witnessed the aftermath of one or two.

The Church Rector

Our rector in those days was the Reverend Hastings. His wife was called Sophie, and she was a very lovely lady. The rector gave scripture classes. He was very strict and much respected. They had a beautiful garden with two gardeners.

The Schools

Of the two large houses opposite the church, the larger was run as the Council School or Chantry School for the senior pupils, who were taught by Mr Humpherson. He would enter the classroom with a large cane, which he used daily. He had a daughter, Florence, who taught at Witley School, cycling there and back daily from Martley. She was a lovely lady who gave me a private piano lesson every Tuesday. My mum always gave her a nice tea. The lesson fee was one and six, or seven and a half modern pence.

The private school was the Tan House, run by Mrs Fidoe, the first graduate of Girton College, Cambridge, the pioneering college for women only. The Tan House still stands opposite the bottom of Scar Bank; the classroom faced up the hill. Mrs Fidoe taught the older children, while Ivy, her daughter in law, took charge of the little children between the ages of four or five up to eight. I myself went to this school from the age of four. Mrs Fidoe was very strict, but kind; there was no corporal punishment in this school. We had to work hard, and there was great emphasis on reading, writing and good manners. There was dancing and singing, and a beautiful garden. It was a very happy place.

Mobile Library

The library visits Wichenford on the first Wednesday of the month. We do not want to lose it, so please use it!

Malvern View

10am-10.30am

Wichenford church

10.35am-11am

Kings Green Farm

11.05am-11.35am

Rosses Green

11.40am-12.10pm

Martley Library

Opening Hours

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

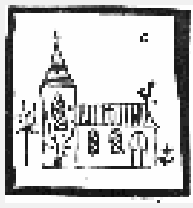
Mon 2.00-7.00pm

Wed 4.00-6.00pm

Thu 10.00am-1.00pm

Fri 2.00-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-12 noon



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Happy New Year to you all!! Have you made your new year's resolutions yet? And have you broken them? I seem to recall asking you this in previous years too, but I'll ask again.

The reason I have mentioned this is that we as a Church and Diocese have been asked to make "resolutions" for the coming year and beyond. They have been called our Mission Priorities, not so different from Mission Statements that some companies and businesses use themselves. However, our mission priorities are all based in scripture and are really priorities that the Church has always had and always will have and that are integral to the out-working of the Christian faith. I share them with you because you may find them interesting that the Church should have such priorities and you might even find something new within them for you to think about yourself. These priorities are:

Worship God
Share the Gospel
Help people to faith
Build inclusive communities
Rid the world of poverty
Care for the earth

These may seem rather large ideals yet they are what we are called upon to do as Christians. I like to think that as we worship God, we learn truths from within the Gospel that we long to share about God's love. This drives us to want others to share those truths and our faith, so that they too become part of that inclusive community called The Church that is driven by the love of God to want to rid the world of poverty, bringing hope where there is no hope, and to take care of the earth as part of God's commission to us at the beginning of the Bible. This once again drives me to want to worship God in a perpetual cycle of Mission Priorities that are integral to our lives.

I hope you find these thoughts helpful in bringing to you priorities that will shape the way we are 'Church' both now and for the future. You may even want to include one of these statements as a New Year's resolution. Perhaps something in there rings a bell? (Very appropriate for seeing in the New Year!).

Rev David Sherwin



Church Diary for January

- Sun 6 Jan 8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.00am Worship Altogether, St Peter, Martley
11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
- Mon 7 Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
- Tues 8 Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer, Martley, Broadwas, Wichenf^d Churches
- Wed 9 Jan 10.15 Holy Communion, Heaton House
7.30pm Wardens Meeting, The Rectory
- Thu 10 Jan 2.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter, Martley – House on the Rock
- Sun 13 Jan 8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
10.00am Worship Altogether, St Laurence, Wichenford
11.00am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Mon 14 Jan 8.30am Prayer Breakfast
7.30pm Worship Altogether Teams Meeting, The Rectory
- Tue 15 Jan 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
- Wed 16 Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer, Martley, Broadwas, Wichenf^d Churches
- Sun 20 Jan 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
4.00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence Wichenford
3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel
- Mon 21 Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
- Tue 22 Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer, Martley, Broadwas, Wichenf^d Churches
- Wed 23 Jan 10.15 Holy Communion, Heaton House
- Fri 25 Jan 7.30pm Burns Night Supper, Wichenford Memorial Hall
- Sun 27 Jan 8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley
11.00am Worship Altogether, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter Martley
- Tues 29 Jan 7.30pm Deanery Synod

In the Garden



Christmas Tree Recycling

So, it's over for another year, Twelfth Night has gone, and you're left with Christmas tree needles stuck in the carpet/feet/dog/cat, and vow to get an artificial one next year. So, what to do with it now? Time to be creative!

- If you have a large-ish garden, consider creating a "dead hedge" or log-pile, placed under an existing hedge or unused corner, for use as a refuge and night time shelter for birds and small creatures. Your old Xmas tree could form the foundation, with rose prunings and other woody branches added over time. It need not look messy-you could contain it with woven hazel/willow branches.
- For smaller gardens, the tree could become a wintertime bird or squirrel buffet bar. Hang bird feeders, fat balls, and other wildlife treats on the branches.
- Compost it! If you have a garden shredder, branches can be shredded, but the thicker trunk might clog up the works of less powerful machines with resin. For

large trees, the shredded material is best composted separately for a year, and used as a mulch around trees and shrubs, or used for informal paths. Smaller trees can be shredded and added to the compost bin. It will take up a year to turn into compost-be patient! Another way is to place cut up branches at bottom of an empty compost bin, to allow aeration, gradually adding kitchen (but not cooked food or dairy products) and garden waste on top over the following year.

- Check out local "mulch-a-tree" recycling or shredding resources at DIY stores, garden centres and County Council waste-recycling centres, on the web or in the local press.
- Use it as kindling on the fire-though better to let it dry a while first. Pines and evergreens burn very fast because of the resins in them, so ALWAYS place a fireguard over open fires, and NEVER overload any woodburner with such fuel. Ensure the chimney is cleaned regularly!

R.I.P.



AH

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

Village Contacts



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Martley WI	Gwynne 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	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431