

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 17 No. 9

February 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

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

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 & District Horticultural Society

The Annual Dinner was held on Friday 7 December 2007 in the clubroom of the village hall and an excellent meal, prepared and presented by the committee, was enjoyed by all present. Chairman Ray Ellis thanked all helpers who had taken time and trouble to make it a success. Carols followed the meal led by Revd. David Sherwin and the whole evening really put everyone in the mood for Christmas.

The programme sheets for 2008 were given out and the first talk is “Ferns and Grasses” by Robin Pearce.

We shall be pleased to welcome new members and wish everyone good luck with their gardens as the Spring gets going.



Broadheath Discussion Club

Over 120 people attended the Broadheath Discussion Club's annual goose supper at the Sapey Golf club this year. A delicious meal was much enjoyed followed by entertaining speeches and the presentation of awards.

In a year of doom and gloom—flooding, foot and mouth, blue tongue to name but a few of the problems farmers have encountered, it was good to see our local farmers shining through.

Competition winners from Martley and Wichford were as follows:-

Beef: 2nd Richard Bray 3rd Trevor Pargeter

Sheep: 3rd Brian Wickens

Dairy: 1st John Richards 2nd Peter Andrews

Maize: 1st Trevor Pargeter 2nd Mike Johnson 3rd Peter Andrews

Barley: 2nd Richard Bray

Break crop: 1st Richard Bray

Grass: 1st John Richards

Garden-Ladies Competition: 1st Helen Pargeter

Listening Posts

Have you been to a castle or stately home and been give a listening device telling something of the history of the building? Thanks to the 'Go West' project, a Rural Enterprise project run by the diocese of Worcester, of which our own Rev Rob Barlow is part, we now have Listening Posts in three of the Churches in our Benefice: St. Peter's Martley, St. Mary Magdalene Broadwas and St. Leonard's Cotheridge. Each post enables you to hear historical information about the church and the locality in which it is set; there are six tracks, one of which is designed for children. Why not pay a visit to one of the churches and see if there is something new for you to learn? There will also be walks and drives available too in the near future.

Rev David Sherwin

Pudford Lane

At time of writing, 2 January, with icy winds howling outside and snow showers forecast, it is hard to think of spring, but, by the time this is printed and read, it will probably be a whole new world out there. Nevertheless, at present, there is a yellow carpet of aconites glowing and some very foolhardy snowdrops peeping through. The lane is awash with streamlets merrily running down, so we are hoping there will not be a prolonged cold spell to allow the Pudford Glacier to appear.

WARNING: Please make sure all

power tools and valuable equipment are under constant supervision as there have been some nasty opportunist thefts recently.

The lay-by operative has been busy as usual, with post-Christmas dumping of cards, cardboard and wrapping paper adding interest to the usual junk. Some of the cards make interesting reading, all grist for a possible future publication of "My life as a lay-by operative". He may well be looking for a character reference from the Parish Council as his car number and details were noted recently by a passing motorist, whilst he was collecting the many vodka bottles dumped beside the bin.

Kate King



Teme Valley Views

from the Teme Valley Children's Centre

In 2008, the Teme Valley Children's Centre will be running a new healthy lifestyles' project which will, among other things, help to raise awareness of childhood obesity.

Obesity is a problem that affects not just adults. The number of obese children has tripled over the past 20 years. At least 10% of 6-year-olds and 17% of 15-year-olds are now clinically obese. Childhood obesity should not be dismissed as puppy fat as it is a strong indicator that the child will be

obese as an adult. Obesity is likely to lead to serious health risks including heart attacks, stroke, type 2 diabetes, bowel cancer and high blood pressure. Research suggests that the main reason for the growing trend towards obesity is lack of physical activity and increased consumption of high calorie foods, so encouraging a healthy lifestyle in the early years should help to prevent health problems in later life. The Children's Centre programme was set up in accordance with the 'Every Child Matters' government initiative which aims to support parents from pregnancy onwards. Being healthy underpins all the Every Child Matters' outcomes as healthy young people are more likely to enjoy, achieve and contribute and hence achieve economic well-being.

For information about the healthy lifestyles' project workshop or any other Children's Centre activities please check our website (www.temevalley-cc.org.uk) or telephone 01886 812982.

Community Safety Advice

I work for Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service as a Community Safety Advisor.

I am keen to raise awareness of fire safety measures within the home, particularly among the elderly, so it is worth me saying a few words about our Home Fire Safety Check scheme as readers may wish to take advantage of this straight away. A phone call to

our HFSC number – 0800 032 1155 will go to our headquarters in Worcester, and then your local Firefighters will contact you and arrange to visit. When they visit, a range of fire safety issues will be looked at in your home and advice given, and a free smoke alarm will be fitted if necessary. Your initial request can be emailed if you prefer on cfs@hwfire.org.uk.

I have learned that another effective way to raise awareness of fire safety measures within the home is through local groups, clubs and networks, who often have strong links with the older members of our communities. It is a key part of my work to visit groups and do a presentation on safety in the home, which often leads to requests for a Home Fire Safety Check or electric blanket testing!

The Fire & Rescue Service is also active in promoting Road Safety, young drivers being another of our priority groups, and lastly, we also offer Water Safety advice.

I can fit my presentation to any length or style, so please get in touch if you want to make a booking

Brian Thompson:
bthompson@hwfire.org.uk
Tel. 07795 238197

Pensax Thrift Shop

The final total raised for The County Air Ambulance for 2007 was £2404.02.

The shop re-opens at 9a.m. on

Wednesday 5 March, with visiting stalls being Fair Trade the first week of each month and St. Michaels Hospice the third week. All new members most welcome, just come and have a look around and have a cup of coffee.

Have you got what it takes to be a Master Composter?

Don't let the title put you off! Join the Composting Revolution now and help spread the word about fantastic, fragrantly earthy home made compost! Why throw it in the bin when it could help make your garden or veggie plot healthier and happier? It is easy, and costs little in time or effort. It helps reduce pollution, and cuts down on the amount going into landfill. You will almost definitely save money on fertilizers.

Master Composters are volunteers who encourage people in their local community to start composting at home, and offer support to people who are already home composting and may be having difficulties or need encouragement.

Anyone can be a Master Composter – you do not have to already be an expert in composting as Master Composters are trained in 'how to compost' before they start their activities. There are Master Composters of every age group and they come from a wide variety of backgrounds. This contributes to the effectiveness of the scheme – Master

Composters can reach parts that other compost promoting activities cannot reach as they talk to their friends, family and neighbours, attend village fairs and it has even been know for a Master Composter to hold a compost-themed children's birthday party!

A Master Composter scheme is being run locally by Worcestershire County Council, in conjunction with Garden Organic, and WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme). 47 people have been trained so far since the scheme began in 2006. All volunteers will be expected to contribute a minimum of 30 hours over 12 months and travel expenses will be paid. New training sessions will start in March 2008, so if you are interested in joining the local enthusiastic team please contact Viktoria Salisbury, Project Development Officer (Composting) on 01905 768260 or by letter to: Waste Management Unit, Environmental Services, Worcestershire county Council, Spetchley Rd, Worcester, WR5 2NP.

Martley Ramblers

**Sunday 10 February 2pm
Church car park**

There is no report of the January ramble as it has not taken place at time of writing (New Year's Day). The date and venue of the annual dinner will be announced later. Watch this space. This month Chris Fletcher will be leading around Clifton-upon-Teme,

always an interesting area to walk, so come along to meet at the Church car park 2pm ready for a prompt getaway.

Kate King



Martley WI

Wednesday 13 February

7.30pm Heaton House

Many of us will have holidayed in Cornwall and will be interested to hear Rosemary Prosser, this month's speaker. The intriguing title of her talk



“To Cornwall and back” does not give much of a clue to the content, so we shall all be avidly listening. The competition is for an old walking stick.

Sheila Craker has been busy arranging a venue and date for our annual dinner and anyone who has not yet booked a place needs to get in touch.

The Home Economics and Crafts' rally is to be at Bewdley Ramada Hotel on 21 April, theme “Let's Party” to celebrate 90 years of the Federation. It's not too early to start thinking about ideas and items for the Rally.

Kate King

Martley Spurs

December was not a very good month for any of our three teams. It began with a good win for the Saturday side when they beat FC Tything 7-4, Mike

Fellows netting a hat trick. The Sunday Premier side also notched up a good win when they thrashed AFC Mazak 6-2, Neil Harrison and Luke Willetts both put a brace in the net. The Reserves put on a good show too, but lost 7-5 to Callow End. All games were postponed over the second weekend with most pitches impractical. The 16th saw them playing in the second round of the Katherine Rayer cup, a game they won 6-3 against Tolladine Sports.

All matches were postponed on the 22nd and 23rd due to frozen pitches. No results were available as I write this in time for publication, for the final weekend of the month.

Beth Williams

Martley Post Office

From 4 February 2008 Martley Post Office opening hours will change. They will be 8am to 7.30pm.

Martley's Past

Berrow's Journal of Saturday 11 February 1922 carried the following report: “Memorial Hall: An army hut erected near the centre of Martley, on a good brick foundation; the outside dressed with a preservative and the interior papered and decorated, forms the excellent Memorial Hall at Martley. A tablet, containing the names of men who died or served in the war is placed on the inside wall and will serve as a permanent



Martley Memorial Hall—now rebuilt in brick

reminder of their services for King and country. The opening ceremony took place on Monday evening (6 February) when a large company assembled in the Hall, presided over by Col Carr. There were also present Brig Gen Benson, Rev J F and Mrs Hastings, Mrs & Miss Nash, Misses Martley, Mr & Mrs W H Holliday, Mr J Dovey, Mr C Howlett, Mr & Mrs Wm Nott, Mr & Miss Humpherson, Mrs Ballard, Mrs G Jones, Mr & Mrs Sherwood, Mr & Mrs Fidoe, the members of the Committee, with Mr D Wood, Hon Sec, relatives of those who died and many others.

Col Carr introduced Brig Gen Benson, who had a most cordial reception, said that he loved to meet again the men whom he had served with and their friends. The objects of the memorials being erected all over the country were, first, to thank God for the men who had come through the conflict, and secondly to do honour to those who had 'gone west'. There should be no sorrow for those who had died for they

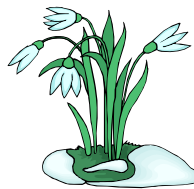
had their reward. What were the living to do but to carry on the work for which they laid down their lives? He would suggest first, that we should make this England of ours a much better place than it had been in the past, and secondly that we should bring up our children to do honour to the men who had given their lives, and teach them that in case of necessity they should be ready and able themselves to die. Lastly, we must try to subordinate self and work in the same spirit of comradeship for the benefit of the community at large. The Brig Gen then unveiled the memorial, and a minute's silence was observed." Brig Gen Benson was GOC RA 5th Army Corps 1917-18.

Note: The Hall cost £413 (roughly £15,000 in today's money). Should we not always refer to it as "The Memorial Hall"?

Alan Boon

Pre-School Snippets

The children are enjoying lots of creative activities this half term as we celebrate festivals from around the world, which started off in January with Chinese New Year.



Two students, Laura Richards and Katie Pearce, have been joining in with us from Worcester College of Technology whilst working towards their qualifications in childcare.

If you would like to give something back to the community, for example serving on our committee, volunteering some time gardening etc, we would love to see you. Please contact Kath at the Pre-School on 01886 889127.

If you were lucky enough to be given a new mobile phone at Christmas, you can recycle your old one with us at Pre-School. It will not only be environmentally friendly, but also raises funds for the Pre-School which is a registered charity.

Since we started our 'fones4schools' campaign last year, you have helped us to raise over £200 by dropping in your old phones and printer cartridges to us at Pre-School or at our collection points at Martley Post Office and Central Stores. A very big thank you - keep it up!

Don't forget, children can attend pre-school from two years old. They will learn through play and fun activities and do not have to be out of nappies! From the term after their third birthday they are entitled to 15 hours per week free care funded by the government. We also provide very popular breakfast (8-9am) and after school clubs (3.15-6pm) for children aged 2 to 13 years. There are many activities available indoors and outdoors, including sports, game console, art, craft, cookery, ICT and much more. Call in or phone Kath or Lucy for more information.

Kathryn Smith BA (Hons) FdA

A big thank you!

The Editor would like to thank all the "pre-production" team of The Villager, including correspondents and Mary who types the non-electronic contributions—they were forced out of New Year holiday mood and sent crashing back to the Real World in the very early days of January in order to get this issue of The Villager together so that you would have something to read! "Many hands make The Villager work", or something like, that!

Michelle Higgins

Martley Parish Council

Unapproved draft minutes of the general meeting of the held on Monday 3 December 2007 at the Memorial Hall

Cllr. Mr. D. Cropp, Chairman, Mrs. S. Williams (Clerk to The Parish Council), 6 members of the public.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time: The Chairman invited questions or statements about Parish business. Mr King discussed the use of Smart Water, a theft deterrent in a paint form, which you use to mark all valuables and which shows up only under UV light. Mr King had been informed that Abberley Neighbourhood Watch was pursuing a grant for a reduced purchase cost through their Parish Council. The Chairman is to ascertain where Abberley Parish Council has applied for this grant and to discuss the matter in further detail with Mr King. The

Clerk is to collate all neighbourhood watch contacts and produce a leaflet. Contacts to be provided by Mr Harry King. The Clerk is to write to MHDC and Cllr. Mr. A. Davies requesting a blue sign stating "no through road with no passing places" be put at the turning into Pudford Lane.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 20:21.

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2007: It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

District Councillor's report: Councillor. Mrs. B. Williams reported that her proposal for all members to have CRB checks has been accepted and will be put into place in the future. She said that her new address and telephone number (01886 853377) will be printed in the next issue of The Villager.

County Councillor's report: Councillor. Mr. A. Davies referred to the anti-social behaviour that Broadheath are encountering at present from some children and asked if Councillor. Mrs. E. Rothwell would share with Broadheath Parish Council the information she has gained so far in her youth work.

Councillor. Mr. A. Davies said that a meeting will take place in January regarding the Regional Space Strategy which all Councillors are invited to attend. This is a separate strategy to that of the Joint Core Strategy but they are linked.

Meeting dates for 2008 for Martley Parish Council: were distributed and

are included as addendum 1.

Section 137 funding: Martley Parish Council agreed to make a donation of £50.00 to each of the following: Air Ambulance, CAB Malvern, Macmillan Cancer Relief

Lengthsman invoices: The Clerk is ask the Lengthsman to submit future invoices monthly to The Parish Council. The Clerk is to ask the Lengthsman to remove excess leaves at the Weighbridge, unblock drains etc in the village centre.

Planning: Applications received: December 2007. 07/01667/FUL Barbers, Martley Orangery style garden room. 07/01660/FUL Fair View, Pudford Lane Extension to bungalow. 07/01719/FUL Penny Patch, Hillside Erection of garage/store.

Approvals/refusals: 07/01467/LBC The Old Smithy, Martley Refused. 07/01467/FUL The Old Smithy, Martley. Refused

Correspondence included: letter of complaint regarding play area; Festival Housing Annual Report 2006/07; WCC – Weight restriction; WCC – Lengthsman Review

Finance: There were 6 cheques totalling £2215.60 for agreement and signature. The Clerk is to produce the accounts for November at the next meeting due to some financial information not being available prior to the meeting.

Councillor's reports and items for future agendas: The Clerk to ask the Lengthsman n to look at the drains and

overgrown hedgerows at Hillside on the Martley to Gt. Witley Road. The Clerk to write to Highways to ask them to remove the flooding signs on the Martley to Gt Witley Road. The Chairman is to look into The Freedom of Martley Board. Councillor Goodyear reported that she had recently seen a home video that had been made by youngsters from Broadheath, but she was not impressed by the presentation. Councillors reported that farmers are being encouraged not to cut back hedgerows in consideration of wildlife. Therefore, hedgerows within Martley are now becoming overgrown and are beginning to seriously affect visibility in some areas of Martley. The Clerk is to write to BT to request that waste material is removed from Pudford Lane where they have recently erected a new post. Residents please remain vigilant with regard to the scrap thefts and report any suspicious cars, with registration details, to the police. Councillor Rothwell reported that the Youth Grant bid had been successful and she has secured £500.00 of funding. She is currently liaising with the primary school and has arranged meetings. She had attended a meeting at Sport Martley relating to the Martley Health and Physical Partnership at Martley which was headed by Amanda Smith from MHDC. This meeting concentrated on the results of a questionnaire that had gone out to the youth. Councillor Rothwell is now consulting with the

children to see what it is they would like in Martley: the aim is to deliver the first event at Easter with a clear schedule of dates thereafter, to provide continuity.

The Clerk is to write to Severn Trent about the open manhole cover by their pumping station to ascertain a date for its replacement.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting is on Monday 8 January 2008 at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 21:39pm.

Clerk:S.J.T.Williams 01299 832949

E-mail:clerk@martley.org

sally@mamble.org

Parish Council Meeting dates for 2008

All meetings on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise notified:

7 January Ordinary Meeting

4 February Ordinary Meeting

3 March Ordinary Meeting

7 April Ordinary Meeting

28 April Annual Meeting of The Parish Council

10 May Annual Parish Meeting (Saturday. This is not a Parish Council Meeting; it is a meeting of the electorate)

2 June Ordinary Meeting

7 July Ordinary Meeting

4. August Ordinary Meeting

1 September Ordinary Meeting

6 October Ordinary Meeting

3 November Ordinary Meeting

1. December Ordinary Meeting

All meetings to be held in the Memorial Hall at 8pm unless notified otherwise.



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



Church Flowers

3 February Mrs Andrews
10 February Lent, no flowers
17 February Lent, no flowers
24 February Lent, no flowers

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship will meet in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 19 February at 2.30pm.

Wichenford PCC

The PCC will meet on Monday 4 February at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall.

Events in aid of Wichenford Memorial Hall

Brian Draper MBE

The illustrated talk on "Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale", filled the Memorial Hall. As always, Brian was both informative and humorous, and everyone enjoyed a splendid evening.

The raffle was very well supported and Mrs Britten's jam was much in demand. A substantial amount was raised for hall funds.

Memorial Hall Christmas Whist Drive

Once again this proved to be a most popular event. The Memorial Hall had been beautifully decorated by Derek Jinks, and his efforts were very much appreciated. The organisers wish to thank everyone who generously gave prizes and mince pies. Everyone spent a very entertaining and happy evening.

Pastoral Lunch

Jennifer Whitaker and her team organised another delightful Christmas lunch at Wichenford Memorial Hall. About 50 people enjoyed soup, cheese, mince pies etc, and the pleasure of each other's company.

This was an excellent start to the Christmas season.

Nora Parsons' Day Centre Christmas Fair

This was a record-breaking event, many people attended and bought

gifts, cakes, marmalade etc from the well stocked stalls. The magnificent total of £1,003 was raised for Day Centre funds.

Nora Parsons' Christmas Lunch

Members and their guests enjoyed a delicious lunch of roast turkey prepared by Paddy Sprunt, followed by trifles made by the helpers.

David Sherwin led the carol singing with his guitar, interspersed with magic tricks. There was much excitement when Father Christmas arrived and distributed gifts to members and helpers. Finally mince pies and chocolates were served.

A splendid event, enjoyed by all.

Mrs Kathleen Knight

It is with sadness that we record the passing of Mrs Kathleen Knight. Mr and Mrs Sidney Knight farmed at Voyce Farm, Wichenford, for many years until they moved to Sinton Green. On their retirement they returned to Wichenford to Arundels, where they lived happily until Mr Knight's death. Mrs Knight then moved to Clifton-on-Teme to be near her family.

Their contribution to Wichenford was truly remarkable. Mr Knight was church warden for many years and was ably supported by Kath.

As a member of the parochial church council and the Ladies Fellowship, Kath worked tirelessly for the village, baking vast amounts of cakes for the fete, whist drives etc., generously

supporting all village events in any way she could.

We extend our deepest sympathy to her daughters Ann and Heather and their families.

Nonagenarians

Congratulations to two ladies in our parish who celebrated their 90th birthdays in January. Mrs Joan Banks



and Mrs Millie Pargeter have done so much for the parish and are still very supportive.

We wish them many happy returns.

Wichenford 100 Club December winners

Thanks to the efforts of Bill Hylan and the additional support of all those who have crossed his path since last month, the total number of members has now reached 217! Well done, Bill! What a star! This means that this month the prize money can be allocated as follows:- No. 202 P Mantle £84.50 And returned subscriptions to No.122 Mervyn Mitchard £12.00, No. 38 The Masons Arms £12.00.

PS New members are still welcome:
£1 membership and
£9 for subs January -
September 2008.
Contact 01886
888239 or 01886
888431



Why pancakes on Shrove Tuesday?

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday (the liturgical season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday). It is the last day of "shrovetide," which is the English equivalent to the tradition of carnival that developed separately in the countries of Latin Europe. The word "shrove" is a past tense of the English verb "shrive," which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by confessing and doing penance. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the shriving (confession) that Anglo-Saxon Christians were expected to receive immediately before Lent.

This day is also known as Pancake Day or Pancake Tuesday, because it is customary to eat pancakes on this day. In other parts of the world—for example, in historically Catholic and French-speaking (Latin) parts of the United States and elsewhere—this day is called Mardi Gras. The term "Shrove Tuesday" is not widely known in the United States, especially in those regions that celebrate Mardi Gras on the day before Ash Wednesday.

The reason that pancakes are associated with the day preceding Lent is that the 40 days of Lent form a period of liturgical fasting, during which only the plainest

foodstuffs may be eaten. Therefore, rich ingredients such as eggs, milk, and sugar were used up immediately before the fast. Pancakes and doughnuts were an efficient way of using up these perishable goods, besides providing a minor celebratory feast prior to the fast itself.

The French also have a festival associated with pancakes (crêpes) which is held on 2 February each year. This festival is called Chandeleur and is a celebration of light. The name is derived from the word "chandelle" which also gave us the English word "candle". The festival is known as Candlemas in English. It is thought that pancakes are associated to this celebration because of the symbolism of their shape and colour being reminiscent of the sun.



Some Frequently Asked Composting Questions

Martley's Master Composter, Angie Hill, answers some questions she is often asked.

To find out about becoming a master Composter, see article on page 13.

Q. Do I have to turn the contents of my compost bin regularly?

A. No, it's not compulsory! Turning compost ensures there is enough air and reduces compaction. Air is essential for the survival of the microbes that degrade organic waste. Although turning the heap is the best method, you can mix the material around in the bin using a garden fork, or use a broom handle to poke holes in the material creating vertical air channels. The easiest way is to make sure you put in materials that provide structure and carbon, like egg boxes, torn corrugated cardboard, the cardboard centres of toilet and kitchen rolls, scrunched up paper, or small, twiggy prunings.

Q. Can I compost vacuum cleaner dust?

A. Yes, provided your carpets are not synthetic, the contents of your vacuum cleaner can be put into the compost bin. synthetic fibres do not degrade, so should be avoided. If you aren't sure if your carpets are synthetic or not, test a few fibres with a lighted match, outside. If they melt, it is synthetic! Large amounts of vacuum dust can soak up the moisture from the compost

and disturb the balance, so wet it when you add it.

Q. Help! I have lots of small flies in my compost! What can I do?

A. The small black flies in the compost bin are usually fruit flies. They do no harm, but can be annoying when you open the lid of the bin. To deter them, try spreading a sheet of newspaper or corrugated cardboard on top of the compost in the bin. A thin layer of soil or sawdust will do the same job.

Q. My compost is slimy and smells awful! What am I doing wrong?

A. Good compost shouldn't smell bad. It should have a sweet, earthy smell. It sounds like your compost is either too wet, too compacted, or has too much nitrogenous green stuff in it. Try mixing the contents with dry material such as scrunched up paper, roughly torn low-grade cardboard, egg boxes, a small amount of sawdust and twigs. You might need to empty the bin in order to evenly distribute these "browns". The "browns" add carbon to the compost, will help to dry it out, and allow air in too. A bad odour is the result of airless (anaerobic) decomposition. Compost needs to be moist, but not waterlogged.

Q. I am worried that my compost bin will attract vermin.

A. No one wants rats taking up residence in their compost bin! Here are a few suggestions to make yours a rat-free zone!

1. NEVER put cooked food and leftovers in the compost bin,

especially fish, meat and dairy products. Pre-meal eggshells, vegetable and fruit peelings are fine.

2. Line the base and sides of the bin with heavy-duty wire mesh. The mesh holes should be less than 1.5cm in diameter. Chicken wire is not suitable. (Rats have sharp teeth!) Ensure the bin has a tightly fitting lid.

3. Rats are shy creatures, and hate disturbance and changes to their environment. Visit your compost bin regularly. Place a bucket or other garden object nearby, and regularly move that around.

4. Get into the habit of banging on the bin every time you pass it! It should act as a deterrent!

5. If you suspect rats are present, try using a closed composting system, such as a worm-bin, for your kitchen waste. Always wear gloves when handling the compost.

Write now!

If you have visited somewhere interesting on holiday, won an award, run a local club or are organising a local event—do please write something for The Villager! Don't worry if you think that writing is not your strong point—the Editor can lick your writing into shape. Email contributions to editor@martley.org or leave them at Martley Post Office before the first of the month. If you are publicising an event, articles must be with the Editor by the 1st of the PREVIOUS month. To put a flyer in The Villager contact Jim Sandison on 01886 888393.

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

Martley Life in Former Times—Part 2

The memoirs of Isabel Field

The Noak

Beyond the top of Scar Bank, on the right, is the Noak, a beautiful house now converted into flats. Here lived Squire Nash and his wife, a very caring lady who did a lot for the village people. They had one son and one daughter. The couple were held in high esteem, and people were expected to step aside and give a little bow when meeting them on the road as they proceeded on their way in their carriage. The upper classes were considered as gentry, and had to be acknowledged appropriately. The

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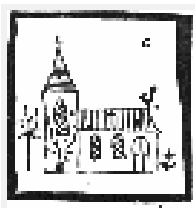
Nashes are all buried in Martley Churchyard.

The Workhouse and Infirmary

These were housed in a very imposing red brick building, now demolished. The Workhouse was used by tramps on their journeys: they were given food, a bed and breakfast, in return for which they had to do some gardening. There were also permanent residents, generally farm labourers and their wives who had been turned out of their cottages when too old to work. The Workhouse catered for the poor and ill people of the parishes, the elderly and unmarried girls with babies. There was a room for the Board of Guardians, comprising magistrates, vicar, doctor and squire. Attached to the building was the little chapel, mostly used for services when old people died, and when unmarried mothers took their babies to be “churched,” this being a ceremony conferring a kind of blessing on an illegitimate child. I used



The Noak



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Did you notice that as soon as Christmas was over, the card shops had cleared their shelves of Christmas cards and were filling them with Valentine cards? Have you got yours yet? Is there someone in your life you want to know that you are in love with them? Perhaps you feel this is for gooey-eyed teenagers or the singles to get their man or woman? We have been married for 30 years now and I know that romance has to be part of a marriage for life. I am sure you will agree it doesn't have to be restricted to Valentines Day.

When we got married, they still had the words obey and worship in the marriage service. Whilst those words might have all but disappeared from the service, the ideas behind the words of faithfulness, sacrifice and love, have not. A marriage needs these to survive.

To "worship" comes from the old English word that implies to give worth and honour: 'worthship'. As I have said, the old marriage service used to have not only 'Obey' but also a promise for the man to 'Worship', his wife: to give her the right place of honour in his life and the respect she deserves. This is given by making time

for each other, and making sure that the other knows they are loved.

Thinking more closely about those Diocesan 'Priorities', which I mentioned last month, 'Worship' is the first on the list. It is something that the Christian Church does daily, even hourly in some places such as monasteries and convents. It is something that, as a Christian, we all live out daily. The Westminster Catechism which the reformers drew up said, 'The chief end of man is to worship God and enjoy him forever'.

Worship of God is similar to that of a marriage. God takes priority in our life, we make sacrifices for him, we obey him. All this we do because we love him. We sing songs of worship that give God his rightful place in our lives. Our prayers and offerings make it clear we 'love God' with all our heart soul mind and strength, as Jesus put it. Making time for God is part of our worship and enables our relationship to grow and develop. Maybe these few words will help us reflect on any relationship, with God or with another.

St. Valentine made the ultimate sacrifice for his love of God, he was martyred in AD270.

Revd David Sherwin

Church Diary for February (Study Group not shown due to lack of space)

Sat 2 Feb	11.30am – 3.30pm Diocesan Candlemas Event, Worcester Cathedral
Sun 3 Feb	8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel 9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.00am Worship All-Together, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mon 4 Feb	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford 7.45 Wichenford PCC at the Memorial Hall
Tue 5 Feb	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 7.00pm onwards Shrove Tuesday event at Broadwas Village Hall
Wed 6 Feb	10.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
Ash Weds	7.30pm Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Sat 9 Feb	8.30am Men's Breakfast, at The Royal Oak, Broadwas 10.30-2.30 Marriage Preparation, Broadwas Village Hall
Sun 10 Feb	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.00am Worship All-Together, St Laurence, Wichenford 11.00 am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 4.00pm Healing Service, St Peter, Martley
Mon 11 Feb	8.30am Prayer Breakfast
Tue 12 Feb	9.00am Morning Prayer, Martley, Broadwas, and Wichenford Churches
Wed 13 Feb	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thu 14 Feb	2.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter, Martley - Love
Sun 17 Feb	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 3.00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel 4.00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford
Mon 18 Feb	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tue 19 Feb	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 20 Feb	9.00am Morning Prayer, Martley, Broadwas, and Wichenford Churches
Sun 24 Feb	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 11.00am Worship All-Together, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter, Martley
Mon 25 Feb	9.00am, Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tue 26 Feb	9.00am Morning Prayer, Martley, Broadwas, and Wichenford Churches
Wed 27 Feb	10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thu 28 Feb	2.00pm Mother's Union at Noumena Broadwas

In the Garden



From The Grounds Up

Do you remember your Granny emptying the teapot under a precious shrub, or watering a prize houseplant with weak, cold tea? Well, you can still do that to great effect, but here is the real-coffee drinkers' version! It is a great alternative to dumping used coffee grounds in the bin: sprinkle used grounds around plants before rain or watering, for a slow-release nitrogen. Add grounds to compost bins or heaps to increase nitrogen balance, thereby speeding up the composting process. Coffee filters and tea bags break down rapidly during composting. Dilute grounds with water for a gentle, fast-acting liquid fertilizer for houseplants, and any other plants that might need a boost. Use about a half-pound can of wet grounds in a five-gallon bucket of water. Mix grounds into soil for houseplants or vegetable beds. Add grounds as a mulch for houseplants, but not too thick, as it can go mouldy.

Encircle the base of the plant with a coffee and eggshell barrier to repel slugs.

If you are into vermi-posting, (worm assisted composting) feed a little bit to your worms-but not too much at a time.

February jobs in the garden

Moving plants: this is a good time to move shrubs or flowers to a new position if they have outgrown their old one. In mild areas, divide large clumps of perennials and replant healthy young outer portions into well-prepared soil.

Early anemones: early flowering bulbs such as Dutch iris and alliums, planted last autumn, come into their own in February. But you still have time to plant up pots of anemones such as *Anemone coronaria* De Caen Group.. Before planting, soak the dry tubers for 24 hours to absorb water, during which time they will double in size. Plant them in pots for an early display, or plant outside later in March or early April.

In the greenhouse, keep tender plants, such as pelargoniums and fuchsias, at a temperature above 4C (40F). Check plants once a week and remove any dead flowers or leaves, to reduce the risk of fungal diseases. Keep their compost almost dry and make sure that there is good air circulation around the plants - a fan heater is an easy way of doing this. You can create a warmer area of the greenhouse by using bubble polythene to partition off a small area, then use this area for raising plants. Make the first sowings of summer bedding plants that need a long growing season, in a heated propagator. These include geraniums, petunias, busy-lizzies and nicotianas. Most require a germination temperature of 21C (70 F).

Village Contacts



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