

# The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 21 No. 8 January 2012

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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 Martley Memorial Hall car park to help maintain the local footpaths

### **Mondays**

**Martley Parish Council:** 1st Monday in the month at 7.30pm in The Library

### **Tuesdays**

**Short Mat Bowling:** 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

**Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship:** 2.30pm

2nd Tuesday in the month (usually)

**Martley Toddler Group:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (term time) 10.30am Martley Memorial Hall

### **Wednesdays**

**Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing:** 7pm Martley Memorial Hall *Enq.* Jeff & Thelma 01886 821772

**Martley Folk Club:** 1st Wednesday in the month at The Talbot, Knightwick and 3rd Wednesday at The Admiral Rodney

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

### **Thursdays**

**Wichenford Wine Club:** 3rd Thursday in the month

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

See Church Words p. 27 for details of services

See articles for details of special events AND changes of time/date/venue of regular events

See the Diary page on [www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk) for a complete listing of all forthcoming events (that the Diary page editor knows about)

See page 28 for contact details of organisations

**Articles to go in The Villager must be submitted by the 1st of the previous month**

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

# **OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY**

Visit our website—[www.martley.org.uk](http://www.martley.org.uk)



## ***Teme Valley Geological Society (TVGS)***

It has been a very busy few weeks towards the end of 2011 with our first full year being marked by the Annual General meeting on the 26 November. This was well attended and followed by a general discussion on the way forward in 2012 for the Society. Natalie Watkins of the Earth Heritage Trust was presented with a card and gift: a meteorite, in recognition of her tireless work to develop and promote the geology of not only Martley but the whole region. Thanks also to Brenda Owen-Jones for making a delightful array of geologically themed cakes to include coconut pyramids and rock cakes. In the afternoon Paul Olver led a visit to Martley Rock to see the site improvements. These are impressive and have been achieved by a huge amount of time and effort put in by the multi-tasking John Nicklin and Dave Cropp and their talented cohorts and funded

by LEADER European funding for Worcestershire. The day ended with a splendid evening's entertainment by "Whalebone" in the Village Hall. As always if you have any queries or are interested in membership please contact John on 01886 888318. John has sharpened his pencil since he has been promoted to Secretary from the Acting Secretary at the AGM. 2012 looks like being another eventful year for the TVGS. Come and join us !

*HH*

## ***Martley Spurs Football Club***

### **November 2011**

Martley Spurs started November with a brilliant 6 - 0 win over Droitwich Eagles in the Sunday Junior Nursing Cup where Luke Willets had a hat trick & Billy Stelling scored 2. This was followed by league wins against New AFC Barbourne and AFC Kempsey and a win in the Infirmary Cup against Malvern Town. The last match of the month was against Pheonix Sports in the

3<sup>rd</sup> round on the WFA Sunday Junior Cup where we were unfortunate to lose 1 – 0. Training sessions are held on Friday evenings at St Johns sports centre, new players are more than welcome to join us. If you are interested then please contact Simon Rawle on 07971 264107 for details.

*M Gardner, Secretary*

### ***Celebrating 80 years in Martley***

Dorothy Wall was born on 12 December 1931 on Martley Hillside, and was the only



daughter of Charles and Florence Wall (who were Haulage Contractors in Martley). Dorothy married Bernard Fennell in 1953 at Martley Church and she has continued to live on the Hillside where she has brought up three children. Dot has seen many changes in village life over the many years. This seems to be a record and long may it continue, Dot. We hope you had a lovely birthday. With love and best wishes from all your family and friends.

### ***Martley and District Horticultural Society***



The AGM and Social Evening were held on 24 November. Brenda

Crump ('Flowers by Brenda') of Clifton-upon-Teme had been invited to demonstrate the making of a Christmas door ring, and she constructed a real beauty, which was then raffled and this was won by Pauline Smith. To round off this part of the evening Mike Dunnett showed samples of Salvia Hadspen and tradescantia Maiden's Blush, both lovely and worthy of garden room. Hyacinth bulbs were given out to members for the Spring competition and the most interesting leaflets 'Fruit Trees for Worcestershire' were offered. The trophies for the Annual Show are now on display in the Village Hall, certificates are to be given instead. A photo workshop is planned for 2012 and also a possible visit to Monet's garden in France! The business part of the meeting reported that 2011 has been an excellent year with many interesting talks and visits, and ending with a healthy bank balance. Thanks were expressed by our Chairman, Mike, and the President, Mrs Pat Finch, to everyone who had helped in their vital and special ways, and the fact there are no changes of any sort on the staff shows what a happy bunch we really are. So here's to success in the garden in 2012! Our next meeting is scheduled for the 26 January, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, new members always welcome.

*Tina Steele*

## ***Martley Ramblers***

### **Sunday 8 January, 10am Church car park**

It is 37 years since the Ramblers were first formed, mainly to try to get blocked footpaths in use again. A lot of miles have been covered in those years! There have been a few confrontations during that time but no injuries reported. How different the paths are now, especially since the parish has the Path-or-Nones doing such good work. At the recent AGM, Chairman Harry King stepped down after 19 years of keeping us on the right paths. Pauline and Richard Mills will continue as Treasurer and Secretary. It was agreed to donate £50 to the Air Ambulance charity, perhaps this will act as insurance against them being called out for a Martley Rambler in trouble! The programme for 2012 was drawn up with some extra walks during school holidays at the request of some village inhabitants who would like their children to accompany them and find out more about the area. The usual day for walks is the second Sunday in the month, but the extra ones will also be noted in the Villager and on the Martley website. The meeting point is in the Church car park and the contact details for our secretary can be found on the village contacts page in this magazine. This month



we shall be travelling to Bewdley to be led around that area by Pam Bowers. At the Annual General Meeting it was agreed that whoever is leading the walk will have to be at the car park, or arrange for someone to be there with clear instructions of where the start point for the walk will be. The annual dinner will be held on Friday 10 February, further details to follow in the February Villager.

*Kate King*

## ***Martley WI Wednesday***

**11 January 7.30pm Heaton**

### **House**

After our Christmas party meeting, we are all looking forward to 2012 and the new programme for the year. Marion has a most interesting series of talks, speakers and events lined up for us. With the cost of speakers and travelling expenses, it all comes to quite a lot of our income, but, as everyone always supports all the special efforts, let us spend it and enjoy our meetings! This month, however, we do not have an outside speaker. It can be bad weather and naturally people are wary of committing themselves to travelling very far. We shall be having a CRAFTY evening this month, doing things with beads under the guidance of some of our own very talented members. So let



us see what we can produce and perhaps have follow up lessons if desired. This month's competition is for your favourite childhood toy or book. Anyone is welcome to this meeting, especially if they fancy having a go at beading – come along and see how much fun we have and make some new friends along the way.

*Kate King*

### ***Pudford Lane Tweets***

The Pudford population are wondering if a Pudford Petition can be started to get Hillend Bridge Lane correctly signposted down by the sawmills. So many lorries and delivery vehicles get lost and go astray because the addresses are incorrectly given as Pudford Lane. The list of goods that have been delivered wrongly would more than fill the Villager. One feels so sorry for the drivers of what are often huge vehicles negotiating a single track lane with few passing places and turning spots. Let's think about what can be done. Perhaps the Parish Council can do something, please. It is very quiet at the time of writing in Pudford Lane, apart from the muntjac barking and tawny owls answering them.

*Question:*

What do you get if you cross an owl with a sewer rat?

*Answer:*

A bird that stinks but doesn't give two hoots!!

*Kate King*

### ***Martley's Past***

The information in a recent Villager that Barbers House is going to offer bed and breakfast accommodation reminded me of a much earlier change when, from being a farmhouse, it became a private girls' school. In 1901 Selena Martley (widow) and her daughters rented Barbers Farmhouse from Squire Nash. Their origin was Irish and I'm sure the Martley name attracted them. In 1906 the 'school' opened with two pupils. By 1909 it needed to employ an assistant mistress, Maude Lyne. Daughter Beatrice Martley (Oxford trained) did most of the teaching, whilst her sister, Clare, was head and administrator. Clare was rather beautiful, but never married. A letter from the sister of a pupil gave me some idea of the school life in 1922 -1924. She said it was a very 'superior' school, with Beatrice known as 'Little Marts'. She remembers having to lie on her back (with all the others) on the hard boards of the landing with a small pillow under her head for 20 minutes every day after the mid-day meal and a teacher would read 'good stories' to them while they rested. An outdoor performance of Hiawatha was staged amongst some thick nut bushes, watched by

children from the church school. The girls went to church in a 'crocodile' every Sunday, and daily walks along Barbers Lane, still in a crocodile! The girls were taught art by Mrs Adams, wife of the Martley artist. She remembered lovely porridge with brown sugar! On Sunday afternoons they did 'church sewing' in Miss Clare Martley's study – something everyone dreaded as 'Big Marts' was something of a dragon!

*Alan Boon*

### ***Smoking Cessation – Stop Smoking Support***



Debbie Bird, one of Teme Valley Children's Centre Family Support Workers is also undertaking an additional role, one of an NHS Smoking Advisor for the Teme Valley area. Following an initial evaluation, Debbie will be able to provide motivational support and guidance all designed to help you give up smoking. As part of the service Debbie also has the ability to prescribe a variety of aides to help you 'kick the habit'. If you are eager to give up smoking to start the New Year in a positive way and need help, guidance and/or support please ring the Centre in the first instance on 01886 812982 to enable a referral to be made to Debbie. This could be

the first step in giving up smoking for good so don't wait, call in now!

For any additional information on any of our services please call the Centre or email either

[sam.billingham@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:sam.billingham@barnardos.org.uk)

or

[annemarie.stride@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:annemarie.stride@barnardos.org.uk).

***Happy New Year from all at  
MAD's***



We hope you all had a very nice Christmas. Why not finish off the festivities with a visit to our Pantomime this month? It is not too late to get your tickets or even turn up on the day - you may be lucky and get a seat! Please remember the dates and put them in your diary on 13 and 14 January with a matinee performance on the 14th. Tickets will be available as usual at the local shops and the Admiral Rodney pub and all the proceeds will be divided between local charities.

### ***Martley Village Hall***

It's the new year, and Martley Village Hall needs YOU! The hall is well equipped with heating, a stage, bar room (with bar) and a fully equipped kitchen. We cater for any event, from children's parties to stage shows, New Years Eve parties to yoga classes. We're happy to



accommodate anything you're looking for, and we have a range of costs, depending on use. Without your support, the hall will be unused, and it would be a shame to lose such a valuable part of the village. SO, if you're looking for a large, cheap space to hold a party, or you're just looking for a space to start a new class, please, consider the hall for your needs. We're here for you to use, so give us a call! Also, please check us out on Facebook too!!

*Lucy Horn*

### ***Martley Village Hall Xmas Fayre***

At the time of writing this article, the Martley Village Hall Xmas Fayre was taking place and activities were well under way! Father Christmas was very busy in his grotto, Rev David Sherwin and his able assistants were running puppet shows, mulled wine, mince pies, lovely teas and cakes served from the kitchen, a super raffle, tombola and many many more stalls packed out the hall. The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank



every one who came along and supported this lovely facility in our village. We don't have a final total raised yet but February's edition of The Villager will carry a full report.

*GD*

### ***Martley 100 Club***

Many thanks for supporting the Martley 100 Club in 2011 and we really do hope you will join us again for 2012. The money raised is vital for the future of the Memorial Hall to pay its running costs. This third year of organising the Martley 100 Club we have managed to raise £1,170.00 and paying out £580.00 as winnings with the remainder of £590.00 going towards the hall's funds. If you would like to join, the cost is again £18.00 per entry.

*Annette Smith*

### ***Baptisms***



A Thanksgiving Service for Ayda Valence Leach was held at St Peter's, Martley On 10 November 2011.

### ***READ International***



For a number of years now The Chantry Library and also the curriculum departments have been sending old textbooks to Tanzania. Martley Primary School joined us in this venture last year and have again this year. The unneeded books are taken to Tanzania, by READ International, who are based at Warwick University. Last year they

gave us an informative presentation, showing how the books are used by the many Tanzanian students to help with their education. Thinking about the lives of other children around the world is an inspirational part of The Chantry's British Council International work and for its 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Green flag projects, and also for Martley Primary School who are working towards their own ECO Green flag. It's also contributes towards both schools caring ethos.

*Pat Owen*

### ***Switch Off Fortnight at Martley Primary School and The Chantry***

Energy saving is an essential part of today's thinking, not just financially but for the future. Both our village schools, as well as schools across the whole country, took part in this ECO initiative. The first week involves certain students being energy detectives, at The Chantry it was some of the Year 8 students. They take energy readings, monitor poor energy savings and think about improvements. Martley Primary have a new energy monitoring system, which shows half hourly readings and staff and students are getting the hang of it and finding out ways of how to improve their energy use.



From the Parish plan questionnaire a number of people asked for information or help on energy issues. Maybe we need to look into this?

*Pat Owen*

### ***Operation Christmas Child Gifts of love from The Chantry***

This Christian initiative is the work of Samaritans Purse, which gives joy to underprivileged children in



Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Each year The Chantry students and staff generously fill shoeboxes with lots of gifts, wrap them in Christmas paper and put in a small cheque. Last year we managed to fill 127 shoe boxes but this year, we beat that with 147!! It's so wonderful to think how much you can put in a small shoe box and to imagine the joy that it will bring to a child who has so little in life.

A great big thank you to all The Chantry Staff and the students who embraced this and took part!

*Pat Owen*

### ***Martley Drama***



The Chantry School has a long tradition of staging original drama productions. The next is coming very soon - another world premiere!



March 2012 brings one more portrayal of long-forgotten rural Worcestershire from right here on our doorstep. As the final play in our 'Fields Trilogy' - this time set around the Martley of 100 years ago, 'Beyond the Fields' tells the story of young people growing up just before World War One and the impact of dramatic world events on 'everyday country folk'. There'll be plenty to laugh and cry at. The play runs for a full week but tickets are limited and are not available on the door. Numbers for the Drama Studio are strictly restricted, so please get yours in plenty of time from the school office on 01886 887100. Performances start at 7.30pm on Monday 19th March to Friday 23rd March 2012. We look forward to seeing you for a dramatic night to remember!

*John Townsend*

### ***Martley Parish Council***

Parish Council is pleased to say that it is now up to full strength thanks to several new councillors volunteering their time and efforts. The new councillors are: Mr Tim Studer, Dr Stuart Cumella, Mr Monty Walker and Mrs Mandy Gardner. Their contact details can be found on the My Parish website.

*Janet Dale, Clerk*

### ***Martley Parish Council Minutes***

Many apologies for not being able to publish the minutes from the Martley Parish Council Meeting which was held on Monday 5 December 2012. Due to the early Christmas deadlines with the magazine, the minutes had unfortunately not been published at the time of submitting our magazine for printing. The December Minutes will appear in the February issue of The Villager.

### ***Burns Night Supper***

Don't forget we will be celebrating Burns Night which will be held on 27 January 2012 at Martley Village Hall. Back by popular demand, Cobwebs will serve their very successful and tasty Burns Fair in both traditional and vegetarian Haggis, flown in from Edinburgh the night before, along with Ian Craigan and his musicians who will be leading the Scottish Country dancing, their 30 years of experience is a must in helping us less able dancers get up on the dance floor! Bill Culshaw, Jill Smith, Jennifer Whittaker and David Sherwin will all be helping to ensure that the evening will be 'the best yet'. Tickets have been held at last year's price of £20 each and these can be purchased before the 10 January from the following people, Sheila on 01886 888378, James on 01886 888359 or Gill on 01905 425652



# Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews  
01886 888303  
Sheila Richards  
01886 888378



## ***Wichenford 100 Club***

Many Congratulations to our November winners. 1<sup>st</sup> prize with ticket number 56 was Dixon Stinton, 2nd prize was ticket number 135, W Banks and 3rd prize was ticket number 209 Rachel Pitt. The draw was made by Matt Corbett.

## ***Wichenford History***

**Wychenford Henry Evet Esq, 8 April 1665/6**

One message with a noke of land in Wychenford called Lillings [Lingens, Ankerdine Road] and one toft and four nokes of land, meadow and pasture called Berrelinges, Keenes, Canns. Hoppers or Kings in the parish of Wychenford. One noke of land called Gunnings in the parish of St Johns in Bedwardine adjoining to and called the Lillings. Two closes in Wychenford called Westfields with messuages barns and appurtenances let to Henry Evet of Woodhall in the County of Worcester Esq for the lives of John

Francis (deceased) and Elizabeth, his sonne and daughter; for a rent of £17 1s 2d at Michelmas and the Day of the Annunciation. If behind, six weeks to re-enter covenant for repairs, paying all taxes and the rent. to have housebote, hedgebote fireboote of the premises.

[bote = rights to wood for 'house-' =buildings works; 'hedge -' = fencing 'fire' =fuel]

## **Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council Minutes**

**Unapproved edited minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 31 October 2011 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford**

## **District and County Councillors Report**

Councillor Williams reported that the planning department have requested additional information from Tesco for their proposed food retail store on the cattle market site at Tenbury Wells.

MHDC has launched 2 new business

grant schemes to support the sustainability and development of businesses in the district. The new scheme which replaces the previous scheme that supported over 60 new businesses, offers start-up grants of up to £750. The business booster grant scheme offers growing businesses a grant of up to £2,000 to enable them to make a step change in their development. The schemes are supported with match funding from WCC and will be administered by the Economic Development team. Our sport inspired programme which was launched in April 2011 by our Community Services team and provides children and young people with high quality and affordable sport and physical activity opportunities. The programme has been recognised nationally by Sport England as a 'unique' and 'innovative' idea. The sport inspired programme has secured £20,000 of external funding from Worcestershire West School Sports Partnership to support with the continuation of the programme beyond the initial 12 month pilot. County Councillor Davies reported that a review of the polling districts was held recently and it was confirmed that Kenswick residents are to vote at Lower Broadheath. There will be a temporary road closure of the C2243-Horne lane, C2066- Ankerdine Road for 2 weeks commencing on 12 December. Holt

Bridge has now reopened and the weight restriction has been removed. Parishioners were requested to respond to the WCC survey on broadband. The Vehicle activated sign in Wichenford will be removed on 1 November and will be located in Rushwick.

### **Progress Reports**

#### **Salt Storage**

The 1 tonne bags of grit will be delivered shortly. They will be located at four sites in Wichenford and will enable the parish Lengthsman to salt the roads at the sites requested as necessary. The salt bins will continue to be replenished by the County Council.

#### **Planning**

Applications considered since the last meeting

11/01165/HOU Sledgemoor House and 11/01240/FUL Coronation Cottage. The parish council has considered both of these applications and have no objections.

Applications approved, refused, withdrawn.

11/01022/HOU The Firs, Wichenford, Single storey extension to rear. (Approved)

Applications to be considered

There were no applications to be considered.

#### **Finance**

The balance from 1 September to 30 September stands at £16,610.36. A letter has been received from the Memorial hall committee requesting

some funding from the Parish Council. They have recently installed a new kitchen and bar area, but the boiler has broken and new radiators are required. It was discussed and agreed that the Parish Council would pay the outstanding balance of £2,220 but would require an invoice. The Parish path warden asked if the council would purchase a strimmer which would clear the footpaths easier. The council asked for details to be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

#### **Electoral Register**

The residents at Highfields have requested that the Parish Council write to Malvern Hills Council as the post code they currently have is for Kings Green and recorded on the electoral register as Kings Green, this causes problems for deliveries. They would like the electoral register to include both Kings Green and Highfields. It was also suggested that a new finger post be erected at Kings Green pointing to Highfields, Wichenford and Ockeridge. The clerk was asked to contact highways to investigate.

#### **Councillors Report and Items for Future Agendas**

At a recent neighbourhood watch meeting the new chief constable David Shaw introduced himself. Our new community support officer is PC Paul Lambon. More neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators are needed. Councillor Barrow

agreed to cover the Kenswick area.

#### ***Suzanne Stinton Heeley***

With the very generous donations received at Suzanne's funeral, we were able to purchase two community defibrillators for the Mordiford and Fownhope area in Herefordshire where we lived. The story was featured on BBC Hereford and Worcester radio on Friday 18 November and a summary can be found at the following BBC news page. [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-15789255](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-15789255). I would also like to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to those in the Martley and Wichenford parishes that contributed monies. Community defibrillators are a very worthwhile cause and perhaps something of interest to your outlying community. If so, West Midlands Ambulance Service have been extremely supportive and their contact details are as follows, Community Response Department (01743) 273677, email [cfradmin@wmas.nhs.uk](mailto:cfradmin@wmas.nhs.uk). I'm also very happy to chat to any interested parties about what's involved. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information

*Vince Stinton Heeley*



#### ***Marriages***

Russell Yarnold and Katie Owen were married on the 10<sup>th</sup> December at St Laurence, Wichenford.



***In memoriam***

Donald (Don) Hemus who passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 and was buried St Laurence, Wichenford on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

***Donald Hemus***

We are so very sorry that Don has passed away aged 90. We would like to send our deepest sympathy to his family. Don's family have farmed in the area for many years and Don was a well-known and much respected farmer. He had also served in the Second World War. Don lost his hand in a farm accident which made his work difficult, but he bravely carried on with his farming. When he retired he kept poultry and enjoyed his large garden. Don was very good company and visitors were always warmly welcomed. He had a lovely sense of humour and will be greatly missed by his many friends.

***Other News Around and About***

***WBRA***

The Worcestershire Bridleways & Riders Association was originally started by a group of like minded ladies who wanted somewhere off-road to ride. With the help of Lord Sandys and local landowners, the first toll route for Worcestershire was created and the group formed

the 'WBRA' as it is now known for short. With the toll routes being run and managed by TROT (toll rides off road trust), the committee decided in 2006 that it was time to move onto supporting and



The British Horse Society  
Registered Charity No. 210504

fighting for our local bridleways. The WBRA aims to keep members and local riders informed of any changes to local bridleway networks, as well as advertising events and rides



for members to enjoy. Today the WRBA have taken a step away from TROT and are now solely focused on bridleways, our aim for the coming year is to provide more PPP (Private Parking Places) sites so you the rider can go and explore the fantastic countryside. We are also aware that some riders do not want to ride alone, so we will be holding more escorted rides from our parking points. This is also an opportunity to make contacts and friends who also don't want to ride alone. Caroline Gudgeon, Chairperson quotes "We are a well recognised Club and affiliated with the BHS (British Horse Society). We aim to encourage riders to get 'out and about' in the countryside and enjoy bridle paths in areas that they would

not normally ride in by securing Private Parking Places so riders vehicles can be left safely off road. This has the double benefit of the rider enjoying varying countryside and the bridle paths being used and therefore helping to keep the bridle paths open and preventing disrepair. We currently have 14 PPP and hope to continually increase that list! We also run the permit scheme in the Wyre Forest which has gone extremely well for our first year. People can purchase a permit from us and can also pay for a private horsebox parking area if they feel they are going to be regular visitors. It has been very popular!! Please check our website and contact me for more information via the email contact form

[www.wbra.co.uk](http://www.wbra.co.uk).

*Caroline Gudgeon, Chairperson*

### ***In Memorium***

Ruby Mary Taylor who passed away on 6 November 2011. Ruby;s cremation was held on 14 November in Worcester. The ashes were interred at St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas on 20 November 2011.

### ***AGE UK***

#### **Malvern and District W.H.I.C.H. Way Project**

This project aims to bring opportunities for friendship and social activities to elderly people in rural areas, it is particularly designed for those who find it difficult to

travel or reach local towns. The project aims to bring W Wellbeing, H Health, I Information, C Care and H Happiness to rural areas.

We provide a hot meal and transport and also provide basic foot and hand care. We have a variety of activities including exercises, quizzes, bingo, beetle and also have access to a Wii. A new item in the New Year will be films and entertainment. Because of the lack of funding available to all charities in the current financial climate it is important that we maintain our numbers at the existing day centres. As numbers have been dropping at some of the centres it is becoming difficult to maintain them. We do not want to close them as the people who attend them really enjoy their day out. We need to have at least 15 people attending each centre on a regular basis. The main problem seems to be getting people through the doors, once they are there they enjoy themselves! These centres are every two weeks and the cost is £15. Many people think this is too much to pay but you cannot put a price on friendship and companionship. Please come along and give it a try. If you are interested please ring 01684 576655 or 01684 560666 and leave a message for Lynne, we would love to see you at the Centre.

[www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)



## ***In the Garden***



Usually January is the coldest month of the year, so don't forget to have the fleece and bubble-wrap handy for those winter nights when frost is forecast.

In the vegetable garden, this is traditionally a time for cleaning the greenhouse and clearing the beds.

Soil preparation is increasingly important if we are to cope with a repeat of the 2011 dry summer, so add lots of compost to help the soil hold the moisture.

Look out for seed potatoes, you can start chitting your earlies at the end of this month, ready for planting in March. Last year early varieties were more successful, the later ones were badly affected by the lack of rain. Complete your pruning of fruit trees and vines and apply a slow release fertilizer, this will not wash away if we have a wet spell.

If you bring a few strawberry plants under cover now you should get some early fruit. Aubergine seeds should be sown now, indoors, and broad beans and peas can be started off under cover.

Commercial rhubarb forcing is done indoors but you can certainly encourage early growth outdoors by covering the plant with a light-proof

pot and some insulation, try clear plastic covers as they will make a difference too. Rhubarb responds well to fertilizers, recommended amounts are one or two shovels of composted manure and a cupful of general fertilizer per plant per year. Prune ornamental climbers such as wisteria, vines and ivies by cutting back to buds close to the main stems. When you are out shopping, look out for those flowering summer bulbs such as anemone and agapanthus, to plant in February.

### **Dates for your diary**

2012 sees the return of the annual Wassail to the Fleece Inn at Bretforton near Evesham. It will take place on January 14th from 6pm to 10pm with cider and singing in the apple orchard.

Hellebore fans might be interested in the guided Hellebore Tours at Ashwoods nursery on Saturday January 28, there is also a Hellebore lecture on the same day.  
JC

## ***In the Garden***





### ***2012 is the Year of the Dragon***

2012 is the Year of the Dragon! In Chinese tradition, each year is dedicated to a specific animal. The Dragon, Horse, Monkey, Rat, Boar, Rabbit, Dog, Rooster, Ox, Tiger, Snake, and Ram are the twelve animals that are part of this tradition. In 2012, the Dragon is welcomed back after the 2011 year of the Rabbit. Each of these animals are thought to bestow their characteristics to the people born in their year. While the Year of the Rabbit was characterized by calm and tranquillity, the Year of the Dragon will be marked by excitement, unpredictability, exhilaration and intensity. The Rabbit imbues people with a sense of cautious optimism, but people respond to the spirit of the Dragon with energy, vitality and unbridled enthusiasm, often throwing all caution to the wind, which can be an unwise move: The Dragon is all about drama but if you take unnecessary risks, you may find yourself starring in your own personal tragedy.

### ***Volunteers needed at new shop***



St Richard's Hospice has opened a new shop in the centre of Worcester at 30, The Cross (opposite Lloyd's Bank). Additional volunteers are urgently needed to help in the shop so if you can give some time please speak to the shop manager or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at St Richards Hospice. Alternatively please telephone them direct on 01905 763963 or email [volunteers@strichards.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@strichards.org.uk)

### ***Happy New Year***

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. Special thanks must go to everyone who is involved with The Villager for all your wonderful help and support during 2011. We couldn't publish our wonderful little magazine without all your commitment and enthusiasm!



*The Villager Team*

## January Recipe

### Rhubarb crumble

Sharp fruit, a sweet topping and thick vanilla custard make this lovely crumble an irresistible pudding to warm you on a cold January evening

Serves 4

### Ingredients

500g rhubarb , chopped into small chunks

100g golden caster sugar

3 tbsp port (optional)

140g self-raising flour

85g butter, chilled

50g light brown muscovado sugar

50g chopped walnuts, optional

### Method

Tip the rhubarb into a saucepan with the sugar and port, if using. Cover and simmer on a very low heat for 15 minutes adding more sugar if you want. When the rhubarb is soft (but still holding its shape) and sweet enough, pour the rhubarb into a medium baking dish. Heat your oven to 200C/180C fan oven / gas mark 6. To make the topping, rub the flour and butter together with your fingers until you have a soft, crumbly topping. Now add the sugar and nuts, mixing together with your hands. Scatter the topping over the rhubarb and bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown on top. Serve piping hot with a big jug of thick vanilla custard (see below for recipe).

### Thick vanilla custard

Heat 600ml double cream until steaming but not boiling. Meanwhile, mix together 6 egg yolks, 4 tbsp caster sugar, 2 tsp corn flour and ½ tsp vanilla extract in a bowl. Pour the cream onto the eggs, stirring continuously as you pour. Pour the whole lot back into the saucepan and place over a medium heat. Stir until it thickens, about 10 minutes should be sufficient then pass through a sieve and serve whilst hot.

### Nutritional information per serving

440 kcalories, protein 4g, carbohydrate 68g, fat 18 g, saturated fat 11g, fibre 3g, sugar 42g, salt 0.67 g  
Enjoy!

### Editors Note

*Do you like our seasonal recipe feature? Do you have a favourite recipe that you always make? Perhaps one that has been handed down the family for generations? Would you like to see it featured in The Villager? Please email your recipes to editor@martley.org or leave them at Martley Post Office for the attention of Gail Dawson, Editor,*

*The Villager.*

*Thanks*





# Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664



2012 already. It promises to be quite a significant year in the life of our nation. In June we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen Elizabeth, later in the month the European Football Championships begin in Poland and the Ukraine at which England will be competing. Following this, in August and September we have the Olympics and Paralympics here in Britain. The nation is already being psyched up to make the most of a rare occasion. Whether we have tickets or not I am sure we will find it affecting us in some way. These occasions help us to draw together as a nation and enjoy the spectacle whether it be waving flags to celebrate the Queen's reign or shouting in support of our national teams. We are all drawn in to be part of these events.

Being part of things is important, being part of a team, feeling a national identity, being part of our own family and friendship groups all bring us a sense of well being and identity. There is also the family of God, of which we, as Christians are

drawn into by the work of Jesus. He himself ran the race before him and finished it with an unusual victory. Being part of his team, of his family is something we can all do. His family meet together week by week in worship. They are active within the community and seek to do the work of his kingdom here on earth.

As people prepare for the celebrations and events of this year, much time and energy will go into preparation and planning so that the events go ahead successfully.

Each of our lives is a big event and putting time into preparing ourselves with God's help is an important part of each and everyone's life. This we are able to do through our worship and meeting together as part of God's family, supporting one another, encouraging one another, praying for one another. The disciples who gathered round Jesus were well prepared because they spent time with him. A challenge for us this year is to spend more time with Jesus that we might be prepared for whatever we face in the year ahead and be ready to meet its challenges with him by our side.

God Bless you all

David

**The Churches of Martley, Wichenford and The Lower Teme Valley, Part of  
the Worcestershire West Rural Team**

<b>Sunday 1 Jan</b>	10.30am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tuesday 3 Jan	10am Holy Communion – St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 4 Jan	12 Noon (PATH) Prayer at the Heart), The Chapel of St Mary and St Andrew, Knightwick
Thursday 5 Jan	12-2pm Lunch in Company – For those who normally eat on their own – Broadwas Village Hall.
<b>Sunday 8 Jan</b>	8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.30am Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 12 Noon Plough Blessing at The Talbot Farmer's Market, Knightwick
Tuesday 10 Jan	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 11 Jan	10:15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thursday 12 Jan	9.15am Little Minnows - Baptism
<b>Sunday 15 Jan</b>	8.00am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley 9.00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10.30am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10.30am Morning Worship, St Peter Martley 3.00pm Evening Worship, The Chapel of St Mary&St An drew, Knightwick 4.00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence Wichenford
Monday 16 Jan	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tuesday 17 Jan	10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
<b>Sunday 22 Jan</b>	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 9.30am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley 10.30am Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter Martley
Monday 23 Jan	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tuesday 24 Jan	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 25 Jan	10:15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
<b>Sunday 29 Jan</b>	10.30am WWRT 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton with Bishop John
Monday 30 Jan	9.00am Morning Prayer, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Tuesday 31 Jan	10.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

**Bible Study Group**

Tuesday 10, 17, 24, and 31 January at 7.30pm Bible Study Group will take place  
at the home of Chris Woodburn



# Village Contacts



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Martley WI	<i>President:</i> Helen CoombeyJones—01886 888294
Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Toddler Group	Will—01886 888340 or Jane—01886 888852
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
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Martley Recreation Association (playing fields)	<i>Bookings</i> —Pat Owen 01886 888406 <a href="mailto:pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk">pat@owen01.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Martley Memorial Village Hall Committee	<i>Chair</i> —Neil Stammers 01886-888513 <a href="mailto:neil.stammers@btinternet.com">neil.stammers@btinternet.com</a> <i>Secretary</i> —Annette Smith 01886-821895 <a href="mailto:villagehall@martley.org">villagehall@martley.org</a> or Lyn Wheeler 01886-889240 <a href="mailto:mortlake10@martley.org">mortlake10@martley.org</a>
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Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431
Wichenford Local Heritage Group	Heather Rendall—01886 888239
Martley Village Hall Bookings	Please contact Lucy Horn, 07723 064 394 or 01886 889148, email <a href="mailto:lucyhorn@hotmail.com">lucyhorn@hotmail.com</a>
Martley CSO	Helen W Cooper 40061

To put organisation and its contact details on this list, or to change the details shown here, email [editor@martley.org](mailto:editor@martley.org) or leave a note for the editor at Martley Post Office.



## ***And finally ...***



### ***Little Witley Film Society***

This month's film will be held on 21st January 2012. The film will be *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995) which stars Clint Eastwood, Annie Corley, Walter Slezak and Meryl Streep. The film was also directed by Clint Eastwood. The brief, illicit love affair between an Iowa housewife and a post-middle-age freelance photographer is chronicled in this powerful romance based on the best-selling novella by Robert James Waller. The story begins as globetrotting National Geographic photographer Robert Kincaid journeys to Madison County in 1965 to film its lovely covered bridges. Upon his arrival, he stops by an old farmhouse to ask directions. There he encounters housewife, Francesca Johnson, whose spouse and two children are out of town. Thus begins their four-day affair, a liaison that fundamentally changes them both. Doors will open at 7pm, with food and drink and the film will start at 8pm. For more information please contact

littlewitleyfilmsoc@googlemail.com  
or telephone Jean on 01886 888122