

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 19 No. 9

February 2010

Editor: Michelle Higgins (01886888344)
Editorial Team: *Martley* Alan Boon (01886 888527), Kate King (01886 888439)
Wichenford Janet Andrews (01886 888303), Sheila Richards (01886 888378)
Advertising: Aileen Parker. 01886 888456
Distribution: *Martley* George & June Lawrence (01886 821064) *Wichenford* Karen Furber (01886 888449)

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

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

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

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

3rd Sunday in the month:

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

Mondays

Rhythm Time: 9.30-11.30am Martley Memorial Hall *Enq.* Rachel 01886 812565
Martley Parish Council: 1st Monday in the month 8pm Memorial Hall
Martley & Villages Carers' Group: 1st

Monday in the month 10.30-12.30 Heaton House.

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling: 2.00pm Martley Memorial Hall

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

Martley Mums and Tots: 9.30-11.30am
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 on page 27 for details of services

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

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

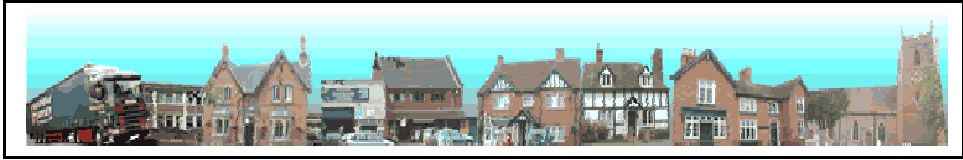
See page 28 for contact details of organisations

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

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



Where do reindeer go when they're off duty?

To Mortlake Drive, it seems. When Rudolf's photo appeared on the home page of the Martley website just before Christmas, other reindeer obviously saw it and thought Martley looked a congenial place. A few days later, the whole team of endearing wooden reindeer had appeared, complete with twiggy antlers and names around their necks, in case we had not recognised them. Thank you to Martley's "reindeer herder" for a bit of seasonal fun.

MSH

Village Hall News

Starting as we mean to go on

2009 was a busy year for the Hall, with plenty of project work: new chairs, new toilets, bar area upgrade, newly painted foyer. We're hoping that 2010 will be just as active - so here's a sneak preview of what we hope you will see this year, and maybe more!

- A new heating system, and greater insulation, throughout the hall
- An upgrade for the library and

Resource Centre

- New equipment for the main hall
- New flooring in the corridor and lighting improvements to the toilets, and a new exit area
- New glass-washer for the bar
- New flat-screen TV, and sports nights midweek, in the bar

We've applied for grants to help us but you can help us too! Why not join the 100 Club? See the flyer in this issue of *The Villager*, or download the form from the Village Hall page of the Martley website (linked from the Leisure page). Why not join the Committee—a friendly group of local folk? Why not fill in a User Survey and point us in the direction for what you'd like? Do you have an idea of start up a new group or meeting, using the Hall? Don't forget, we offer real concessions to help you get started.

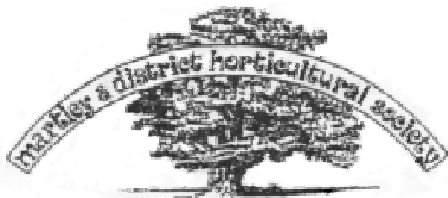
And now we can fully service functions for up to 150 people—seating, glasses and cutlery, drinks all to your requirements—and at a really competitive rate. Hope to see you there in 2010.

Dave Cropp

Martley 100 Club

December winner: number 15 -

Richard McHugh won £35.00. We have had quite a few second-winners.



Martley and District Horticultural Society

The Society's Christmas Dinner on 4 December, as usual, 'went down a treat' – lovely food and good company. Speeches, thank-yous and presentations followed, then the Rev David Sherwin led carols – the Twelve Days of Christmas of course being the high spot of the evening with David conducting each group as though he was spinning plates! Why is it that the 'Five Gold Rings' people always seem more talented than everyone else?

The programme of events for 2010 looks super, January kicked off with Bubble House Wormery – 'Life of a Worm'. 25 February Roger Umpelby talks on "Facts About Most Feared Pests". New members are always welcome.

TS

Miles Away

One Sunday morning in December, Martley's only remaining milestone was spirited across the B4204 by a group of very sturdy fairies: a woman in a funny hat slowing the traffic, and

supervising the operation was the Secretary of the Worcestershire Milestone Society. The stone is now exactly opposite its old site, but much safer, as it was leaning into the hedge and getting bashed by hedgecutters too.

It is to have a new plate in due course (Worcester Cross 7 miles). We should be proud of this bit of 'Old Martley', it is a handsome thing and may date from the 1720's. Does anyone know what happened to the '8 mile' one?

TS

Martley C of E Primary School

At the conclusion of the School's Nativity Presentation in Church on 3 December, the pupils, parents, staff and governors said goodbye to Mrs Helen Davies who has been Headteacher at the School since September 2001, and is now moving to the headship of Lickhill Primary School in Stourport.

During the eight years of her headship, Mrs Davies continued to build on the caring Christian ethos of the school and strengthened the links with the Church. She oversaw the building developments with the new enlarged classrooms, the new Reception/Year 1 classroom and outdoor play area and the imaginative grounds developments. She led the school successfully in coping with the torrent of new government "initiatives", keeping a rare sense of proportion. She expected high standards from all the children in every aspect of their

school lives and it is always a pleasure to visit the School and find the children friendly, welcoming and polite. By initiating a system carefully tracking the progress of each child, she and the staff have enabled them all to reach their potential. Pupils and staff alike responded well to her leadership and to the friendly twinkle in her eye. We will miss her greatly and wish her well in her new post.

In September 2010 we look forward to welcoming our new Headteacher, Mr Andrew Massey, currently Headteacher at Withington in Herefordshire.

*Helen Sandison,
Chairman of Governors*



Martley WI

**Wednesday 10 February
7.30pm Heaton House**

Apologies for the wrong information about the speaker at our January meeting which was due to a last-minute change. This month the speaker is Mike Andrews talking about Voluntary Service Overseas in Papua and New Guinea. We have all heard of VSO and probably know someone who has spent some time volunteering and it will be good to get an insight into what it is all about.

We shall be discussing where and when we want to have our annual dinner, so think about that. We are having a little rest from fund-raising,

but didn't we do well at our last two efforts? Thanks to everyone who worked so hard. Members have been asking for craft classes and our "Crafty" members will announce what is planned or going to be arranged. Watch this space.

Kate King

Martley Ramblers

14 February Martley Loop 10am start Here comes the second walk already this year. It is a morning walk and Sue Hoskins will be leading around the revised Martley Loop, so come along and find out the changes.

Our annual dinner at the Crown will be Friday 5 March. As this is before our March walk, Secretary Pam Bowers will be taking your bookings in good time.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

The ongoing saga of Lane folk

What an amazing appearance of the Pudford Glacier this winter: 10cms thick in most places and about 0.75km long. At times the occasional white van with yellow flashing light has appeared, driver out of van, scratching his head and muttering to himself and then making a quick getaway before anyone can ask any awkward questions about gritting.

One unfortunate driver skidded and demolished a telegraph pole. The helpline was answered by a charming Asian lady, not in the UK, and an inspector arrived one and a half hours later. Engineers replaced the pole two

days later and there was never the slightest interruption to services. How's that for international co-operation?

Best wishes for a quick return to health and full mobility to those inhabitants who have had health problems. Playing rugby can be as dangerous as skidding on the Glacier! Hopefully this month will be drier and warmer. Constant visits to the bird feeders by tits of all makes, chaffinches, woodpeckers, nuthatches and pigeons have meant constant trips outside to refill the feeding stations and constant visits to suppliers to replenish stocks. Oh well, it saves us wasting our pensions on unwanted fripperies!.

Kate King



No news from TVCC this month as the author informed the Editor that she was stranded in Switzerland when she should have been meeting deadlines! But you can access the TVCC web pages linked from the Links page on www.martley.org.

MSH

Martley Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated record of the Minutes of the general meeting of the Martley Parish Council held on Monday 7 December 2009 at the Memorial Hall. The meeting opened at 20:02pm.

Minutes:

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

Progress reports:

The Clerk: The Clerk is to ask the Memorial Hall committee to submit a copy of the electricity bill and their bill. The Clerk is to contact MHDC again regarding designated poop scoop areas. CSO Smith is to ask West Mercia Police Estates Service if there is any funding for improving the weighbridge, which the Clerk confirmed is owned by Worcester County Council (WCC); therefore, the Clerk is to ask WCC about funding. An item in the next issue of The Villager (January 2010) will ask parishioners to contact the Clerk regarding the evening transport suggestion put to Martley Parish Council. The Clerk will submit an amended fault report to Highways. The Clerk is to find out if there is funding for brown signs to point to the village map.

Landowners support – ditch clearance: County Cllr Davies has added an additional £575 to the budget for the lengthsman to be used this financial year to improve highways. Because there is money not claimed by the lengthsman due to personal circumstances, Councillors agreed to use this money to employ contractors. The agreement was for 3 days work at the cost of £400 a day.

Lengthsman: The Clerk is to advertise for a new lengthsman to start in January.

Allotments Martley Allotments Association is to speak directly with a

land owner about conditions, availability, parking, etc. Martley Allotments Association or the land owner can make contact with Martley Parish Council at anytime if they require any advice or assistance.

Highways The Clerk is to forward the letter drafted by Cllr. Metcalfe to Highways. The Clerk will again ask John Wallace to speak with Cllr. R. McHugh regarding Jury Lane.

District and County Councillors' reports: Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Williams reported that the Hub Shared Service Development Team are finalising a plan to improve shared services.

County Cllr. Davies confirmed that a speed indicator sign will be in Martley for a month from week commencing 14 December 2009. £575 has been made available to Martley to be spent on a highways project. Martley Parish Councillors feel that the catalyst for the proposed housing should be the bypass not the other way around. A briefing on the need for the Western Bypass is taking place next week.

Planning:

New

No new applications have been received.

Pending

09/01209/TPA Apartment 1, Laugherne House – Reduce one lime by 30%. 09/00752/OUT Horsham Court, Horsham – Erection of dwelling. 09/00751/FUL & 09/00750/LBC Stables at Horsham Court – Conversion to create new dwelling with new garages. 09/00749/FUL The Old Court, Horsham – Refurb. Of

derelict former house with 2 storey extn. & new garage. Horsham Court went to Northern Area Development Control Committee last Wednesday (02/12/09).

Permitted

09/01325/HOU Bar Furlongs, Berrow Green – Proposed alterations.

09/01326/LBC Bar Furlongs, Berrow Green – Proposed alterations.

09/01195/HOU New House Farm, Hope House Lane – Proposed garage.

09/00662/FUL & 09/00663/LBC Rodge Hill Farm, Hillside –

Conversion of barns to form staff and guest accommodation.

Refused

No applications were refused.

Appealing to Secretary of State

08/01169/FUL Treetops Bungalow, Hillside – Replacement of existing dwelling-Appeal was allowed.

08/01498/FUL Longside, Hipplecote – Replacement dwelling-Appeal was dismissed.

09/00423/FUL Bramblewood, Hipplecote – Replacement dwelling-Appeal was allowed.

Finance:

It was agreed after discussion and vote that both rural rate relief applications for the Post Office and Central Stores would be paid. The Clerk is ask the Memorial Hall Committee for a written invoice for costs of the hall hire, for audit purposes. Parish Paths Partnership expenses were agreed and signed.

Clerk's Report on Urgent Decisions Since the Last Meeting:

Martley Parish Council passed a

resolution that Dist. Cllr. Barbara Williams remains the representative for the Martley Flood Relief Committee the next four years.

Councillors reports and items for future agenda:

The Parish Council should list those associations or committees on which they need representation, together with the amount of time (day or evening) involved in each. Councillors discussed Heaton House car park being available only to residents and not those visiting, but as Heaton House own the ground they are able to specify this.

Date of next meeting:

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

Martley's Past

Past Voices: a postcard sent on 23 December 1903 to Mrs Moseley, Brook Farm, Martley from Knightwick - "I had hoped to come and see the new baby but it's too far for an old woman to walk both ways. Gittins told me of it when he was here. I hope you are doing well and that the farming is good. Love to the children and self and kind regards to Mr.M." How communication has changed in a little over 100 years!

Dave Cropp

Martley Library Opening Times

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ *An Evening with* ★

★ *Brian Draper, MBE* ★

★ **Friday 19 February 2010** ★

★ **7.30pm for 8pm** ★

★ **Wichenford Memorial Hall** ★

★ **An illustrated and** ★

★ **entertaining talk on** ★

★ **“The Severn Way”** ★

★ *Similar talks by Brian Draper* ★

★ *have been greatly enjoyed by* ★

★ *everyone in the past few years* ★


★ **Tickets £4 at the door or by** ★

★ **phoning 01886 888214** ★

★ **Refreshments included** ★

★ **Proceeds to funds for** ★

★ **maintaining the Hall** ★

★  ★

★ *Dixter Stinton, Chairman of the* ★

★ *management Committee* ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378



Church Flowers

7 February - Mrs Andrews
14 February - Mrs A Smith
21 February - Lent

Ladies Fellowship

The next meeting of the Ladies Fellowship is on 16 February at the home of Pam Webb starting at 2.30pm (weather permitting).

Memorial Hall Christmas Whist Drive

The Christmas Whist Drive was a most successful and enjoyable evening. The hall looked really festive and had been decorated by Derrick Jinks, to whom we extend our thanks. There were many superb prizes and the organisers thank the Parish Council, the Memorial Hall Committee and the many individuals who donated them – also many thanks to those who gave the delicious mince pies.

Wichenford Memorial Hall Quiz

Grateful thanks to David and Val Hibbit for organising the quiz, which

was a most entertaining and profitable evening. Thanks also to Peter and Mark Andrews for all their help. We also appreciate the many people who came and supported the quiz and made it such a successful event. Last but not least our thanks to all who so generously donated raffle prizes. The fish and chip supper was much enjoyed. The quiz raised £311. This is an excellent result and much needed for our ongoing hall improvements. Thank you all.

Dixon E Stinton (Chairman)

Wichenford Nursing Association

Some old traditions die hard! The Wichenford Nursing Association has been going for many years; it was formed after the last war by the Hon Mrs Britten to assist the work of the District Nurse in the Parishes of Wichenford and Lower Broadheath. Some people can still remember Mrs Britten riding around the parish on her sit-up-and-beg bicycle, visiting villagers in the Kenswick area with little gifts and a kind word. The

Wichenford Village Charity joined the Nursing Association in 2005 – which was also set up as a charity during the war to provide boots and coal to those in need who couldn't afford to buy them! The principle idea is still going strong: the Committee is led by Georgina Britten Long, with Susan Britten, Pam Webb, Janet Andrews, Margaret Fisher, the District Nurse, Helen Wooley, our Curate, Jennifer Whittaker, and Ken Randall as our Treasurer.

Before Christmas 09, over 40 gifts and plants were wrapped and delivered to those in the Parish who had been ill, or had suffered a bereavement during the year, or maybe were just lonely and in need of being remembered. We deliver the gifts and hope to bring a ray of sunshine on a gloomy day.

Over the years, we have supported various charities with donations, but more in particular by giving help to the district nurse and the surgery. This year we gave the District Nurse some money to buy about £200 worth of much-needed washable bed pads. We have given the surgery toe- and nail-clipping equipment, which they needed, donated to a blood pressure and heart monitoring machine, and this year we are waiting to hear what they need, and have allocated some £250 for something useful.

This Christmas Andy Mosely from the Masons and Skinny Neath are leading a team of 17 strong, driving 6 trucks to the Gambia with much-needed supplies, and we have been able to give them a donation to help them on



their way.

If you know of anyone who might like to be added to our gift list, or if you would like to help in some way, please let us know.

GBL

Silent Auction
Friday 19 March
Wichenford Memorial Hall

The auction will be in the form of a table top sale, and people can donate items to the Memorial Hall cause, or keep 50% of the sale proceeds. Please bring anything from working electrical goods, nice books, pictures, you name it, in fact anything that someone else might light to buy would be very appreciated. There will also be a silent auction for pub meals, golf rounds and lessons, riding lessons, a morning's worth of gardening or ironing etc etc. A small entrance fee will be charged and will include food and a glass of wine. Proceeds to raise funds for the new kitchen. Contact Georgina Britten Long on 07767 788273, David Hibbert on 01886 888100 or Margaret Fisher on 01886 888 214.

Wichenford 100 Club

December winners: No 84 Mrs C Wetherall £75.00 And returned subscriptions to No. 178 Mrs Davies

& No. 1 A Hylan. Drawn by Bill Hylan.

Okay! So this looks like a fix but it isn't! The first number out of the bag was a free number 168. Its owner didn't get back in contact last year, so we cleared the name and put the number back on the available list. The next number out was no 84. Then the next was 158, which is held by a villager who still hasn't been paid for this year unfortunately! So another number was drawn. 178 - which means in four balls Bill had managed to draw 158, 168 and 178!! As we needed yet another number, in went Bill's hand and out popped ... no. 1 his son's number! All utterly legitimate - and par for the course of co-incidences that this draw usually produces.

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Unapproved abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14 December 2009 in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

District and County Councillors Report

County Cllr Davies sends apologies for the February meeting. He has spoken to A Moore regarding Rosses and Guises Lane and reported that a few objections have been received. The objection period is not over yet. The money for the ditching will be paid once the invoice has been received from the parish council. It was agreed that the excess soil left on

the verge would be seeded at the appropriate time. Worcester is reviewing their transport strategy before going to cabinet on Thursday. There will be a consultation in February/March on the development of a major funding scheme and the NW Bypass is on the agenda. A £120 million waste scheme will start in Hartlebury on the trading estate in 2011, with recycling for up to 50% of waste.

Minutes

The parish council were told that there will be no local plan in 2011. The Parish council can adopt the phone box for £1 with extra costs for insurance, electricity etc. We can do what we want with it and there are some very interesting ideas on the internet. The minutes were signed as a true record.

Progress Reports

Ditching: The ditching has been completed at several locations in the parish at a cost of about £890. Most of this will be coming from the CC once the invoice has been received. The clerk has reported the broken headwalls at Venn Lane.

Planning

Applications considered since the last meeting:

09/01450/HOU. Hill View Barn, Cockshoot Farm.

The parish council's comments have been forwarded to Malvern Hills.

09/01424/REM. The Elms, Frenchlands Lane

The parish council has no objections to this application. The footpath 508

objection has been withdrawn as notification has been received by the CC.

Applications approved, refused, withdrawn:

09/01450/HOU. Hill View Barn, Cockshoot Farm. Change of use from existing 2 bay garage to garage with first floor workshop/office accommodation. (Withdrawn)

Applications to be considered.

09/01192/HOU. Extension to existing dwelling. Lingens Cottage.

The parish council has no further comments to make.

Finance

The balance for the 30 September stood at £17,886.90. There were two cheques totalling £2,005 for agreement and signature ref. the milestone society and the roof repair for the village hall.

Budget

The draft budget sheet proposed to increase the insurance by £10.00, increase councillors expenses by £50.00 to £100 and cut the contingency to £500. It was also agreed that £50.00 should be put in the budget for the computer. The budget for 2010/2011 was accepted. The clerk was asked to write to MHDC with a precept request for £7,000.

Rosses/Guises Lane

The parish council wants to support the County Council's argument for closure and Cllrs Rendall and Randall have spent a lot of time doing an impact statement which contains many pictures and articles on the damage that is done by allowing these lanes to

be driven through. The chairman praised the councillors for all the hard work they have done and gave permission for the file to be submitted to the County Council. Cllr Rendall was told that she must produce an invoice to the parish council to cover the cost of the ink that she has used.

Councillors Training

Councillor Rendall will be attending a tree-grafting course.

Correspondence

For decision by the parish council. (Information only)

Comments for Hill View Barn planning application; Comments for The Elms planning application; Response to Rural Rate Relief; SWJCS Site allocations & policies plan gathering events; Calc mail 9-36, 9-37, 9-38 emailed to councillors. Festival Housing Support at home; Worcestershire Milestones; Worcestershire Warden Newsletter; WCC public notice on Rosses and Guises Lane. Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy questionnaire; WMRSS Panel Report Addendum. West Midlands Planning Aid.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 1 February 2010. Meetings were arranged for 1 February; 15 March; 19 April APM and 24 May (Annual Meeting) 2010. All will be in the Memorial Hall Wichenford at 7.30pm.



Suckley Sharepool

Are we mad? We are thinking of building an indoor swimming pool, 'Suckley Sharepool' on our farm at Suckley Road, Knightwick. It would be for private hire, in hourly or half hourly slots. Would you like to swim regularly in complete privacy all the year round?

Apparently there are only two actual poolshares in England and we've been to see them both. One has been running for 20 years on a farm in Norfolk. Both are enjoyed by many of the local community, groups and families. Commuters and serious fitness people swim early and late, as the pool is open 6.30am to 10.30pm. During the day the pools are mainly used by mums and babies, 'ladies who lunch' and the over-50s. In evenings and at weekends families and small groups book a regular weekly time. 'One off' slots are available by arrangement.

We hope to heat our pool to around 30C using a 'green' heat source. Currently we are looking at biomass, wood-chips, logs or pellets, or miscanthus, and a geo-thermal heat-exchange pump. Rapeseed oil, wind turbine and solar heating appear to be not suitable. The pool size will be big enough for a maximum of eight swimmers, and of course, it is unsafe for anyone to swim alone, so we would insist on a minimum of two.

There will be individual changing facilities for ingoing and outgoing groups. We will expect the insurance,

business rates, building and start-up and running costs to be large, but hope to charge around £16-£25 for a one-off slot according to day and time, which, shared between eight people is cheaper than the public pools. Also, no parking charges in Suckley! A yearly or half-yearly 'poolshare' booking should work out very reasonably. (The ones we looked at started at £165 for 6 months). If the sums add up and the planners agree, we hope to be up and running in 2010. Here's the crunch: we, and the planners, need to know if there is any interest before we take the plunge!

If you think you might possibly enjoy a local, private swim, be kind enough to register your interest, with absolutely no obligation, by phoning John and Jill Hammonds on 01886-884221 or e-mail john@pewcroft.fsnt.co.uk.

Little Witley's February film

Little Witley's February film is **The Kite Runner** and is on Saturday 27 February. Based on the best-seller by Khaled Hosseini and set in Afghanistan in 1978, this film tells how a young boy's life is affected by events over which he feels he has no control. Details of the Little Witley Film Society on the Leisure page of www.martley.org.uk or phone Jean Latham on 01886 88888122 or Bob Jose on 01886 888383.

A Short Trek in Nepal

Part 1 of a fascinating holiday taken last Autumn by Helen Sandison.

An inauspicious start, the train was cancelled, but we reached Heathrow in time. Nine hours to Delhi, one and a half to Kathmandu, queue for visas then welcomed with garlands and a minibus to our hotel.

Two days in Kathmandu: fascinating sightseeing, Buddhist “stupas” colourful with statuary, prayer flags and carved woodwork. Hindu temples and visits to the three old centres of Kathmandu including the Patan Durbar with its fascinating museum and delightful restaurant in the courtyard of the old palace. An early morning Everest Flight, breathtaking views of Everest and surrounding peaks, a glimpse of Tibet beyond. Kathmandu was colourful, chaotic traffic, overloaded buses, festoons of overhead electricity cables and a striking statue to three Nepalese literary giants. Zara, our tour guide, and Surrendra, our local Nepalese guide, were mines of information on local religion, history and culture.

Day 5, another early morning flight – to Pokhara, then a boat trip on the lake (in fishing canoes) to an island temple and then to a lakeside restaurant. Later we visited a Tibetan refugee camp, where hand-woven carpets were a particular attraction.

Find out how we trekked to an altitude of 3800 meters, next month.

Helen Sandison

Mobile Library

Ockeridge

Silver Oaks 9.45–10.05

Wichenford

Malvern View 10.10–10.35

Church 10.45–11.05

Kings Green Farm 11.15–11.40

Rosses Green 11.45–12.05

Martley Hillside

Horn Lane Bungalows 12.10–12.25

Martley

Taylor's of Martley 12.30–12.45

LUNCH

Heaton House 1.20–1.50

Church 1.55–2.15

Clifton

Village Hall 2.30–3.50

The Mobile Library will be visiting these stops on Wednesdays on the dates listed below in 2010:

20 January	10 February	3 March
24 March	14 April	5 May
26 May	16 June	7 July
28 July	18 August	8 September
29 September	20 October	10 November
1 December	22 December	

Any enquiries should be made to Stourport Library, Worcester Street, Stourport, Worcs DY13 8EH, tel: 01905 822722 stourportmobile@worcestershireshire.gov.uk



Harvesting The Past

Update February 2010

As I write (early January), I am looking out of the window at a truly Alpine scene. Last night the temperature went down to minus twelve and almost all the schools in Worcestershire have closed. When you read this, I hope ‘The Big Freeze’ will be just a memory. You will have forgotten the bad bits (the searing cold, the endless struggle to feed and water stock, the dangers of driving etc) and you’ll remember the best bits (the picture-perfect winter scenery, the children’s happy faces, hot chocolate and warm fires).

Whatever the weather holds for us in the next few weeks, it is unlikely to match the ferocity of the winter of ’47.

Almost everyone I spoke to during the interviewing stage of our oral history project ‘Harvesting the Past’ had vivid memories of these bitter months, and not all their memories were happy ones. I’ve picked a few out of the archive to share with you this month.

“We were living in Oxhall in that very severe winter of 1947 and how we survived then was really unbelievable. It started the middle of January, and it seemed to go on and on and on, and it never seemed to end. I think there was snow about in some of the valleys in May. Absolutely unbelievable.

We grew our own potatoes and our own vegetables. The potatoes were in

the old hop kiln, covered over with straw and the mangels were in ‘a bury’ outside which was covered over with hedge trimmings and straw, but needless to say they certainly froze. I remember tunnelling under them to get the mangles out and the roof was actually frozen solid.

Water came from the pump, in what we called the back kitchen. Every morning we had to prime the pump. Every morning I remember it was frozen. For the stock we just pumped it into a bucket and carried it. Oh, there was a pond outside, not far from the building, which was fed by a spring which fortunately didn’t freeze... it was only a very small one, but it lasted over the winter. I always said that year

we had the worst snow, the worst frost, the worst gale and the worst flood I could ever remember.” *Eric Delahay*: “You couldn’t describe how bad that was especially when you saw the snowdrifts on some parts of this farm. They were terrible in some parts. There was a big holly hedge down in our bottom ground and when the snow went, all the tops of the holly trees were eaten by the rabbits. Yeah, about twelve foot high and the tops were ate off! So you can tell how much snow there was in places. But, you see, that was in horse and cart days... naturally. We couldn’t get about, you couldn’t do anything, you



“Every morning ... it was frozen”

couldn't move anything and it went on and on. That didn't start until the end of January but it never knew when to finish. We lost a lot of lambs that year."

Bob Webb: "I didn't get to school for eight weeks. We had the big blizzards in January and February the snow didn't go till May... we were blocked in. There were no buses for six or seven weeks I think. It was so severe it broke the telegraph poles off - all the poles in the valley were snapped off with the weight of the ice on the lines. We managed. We'd got plenty of food ... hay and oats and that. That was no big problem. The biggest problem was the sheep lambing outside. In those days they all lambed outside and ours started lambing in January. We used to go out at night to save what we could. But we picked up lambs in March that had been born in January... that had been frozen to the ground. We didn't

actually lose a single woolled sheep... a ewe... all through that. They were healthy enough and we took plenty of food to them. Dad couldn't get through with the cart but he made a sledge and the Shire horses would go... with a tin sledge... to put the hay out. But the lambs, they didn't stand a chance so we had a cartful load of dead lambs to collect up ... and some of them had been there six to eight weeks under the snow when they were found.

Then we had the big floods after and that was pretty disastrous. The whole valley was full of water and the biggest floods we've seen here."

David Spilsbury: With all our modern amenities, I think it is hard for us to imagine what it can have been like that winter. Just reading those extracts makes me feel guilty for moaning about my boiler cutting out this morning!



Snow in Rochford in 1991

Of course memories about the winter of '47 have been woven into our community play 'Back Across the Fields' which will be performed at the Chantry High on Wednesday-Friday 28-30 April and Saturday 1 May. Contact the school for tickets. For further information on Harvesting the Past, please contact me, Julia Letts, on Julia. letts@virgin.net

Julia Letts

Normandy: 1944 and 2009

(or One Man's Lucky War)

Part 1—1944

Alan Boon, Martley's own "History Man" writes for us about his own experiences.

After finishing basic training in 1942, I apparently failed the Morse test – so instead of being sent as a wireless operator in a tank, I went to the RAMC Medical College in London (where I met my wife to-be) and after three months was turfed out to start x-raying with the 102 Field Squadron Hospital in Ormskirk. In March 1944, I was sent for a week to fill-in a vacancy at a Manchester Military Hospital. I couldn't understand why I had several foreign civilians with damaged legs to x-ray. "Oh, they're practising parachute jumping at the local airport before being dropped in France," I was told. On the Saturday there was free entry to a football match at the

city stadium – England v Scotland (England won 8-3!). Lucky breaks continued – in April 1944 all leave was stopped, but my wife-to-be, working night-shift on a teleprinter, intercepted a signal saying that if you could prove you had arranged to be married, you could have five days compassionate leave. She contacted me, and my boss, Major Flood, the Radiologist, saw that I got it. July 1944 saw the 500-strong unit camped in woods on the South Coast prior to the crossing to France. The night before we sailed, my new wife arranged a weekend compassionate leave to visit (she said) her grandfather in Brighton. We sneaked into one of the deserted bungalows on the beach front, and the next day she stood on the deserted platform waving off the whole unit.

We landed at a Mulberry Harbour in Northern France – walked along the long pier, then across the sandy beach and continued for six miles or so following PLUTO (Pipe Line Under The Ocean) and slept under the hedge for several nights until our tents and other equipment turned up. Within two or three weeks we had a 1,000 patients.



An old mulberry harbour in Normandy

Convoys of ambulances would come in the middle of the night (there was still fighting around Caen). If you were the duty radiographer (there were three of us) you were woken to deal with the urgent cases.

By October 1944, Lady Mountbatten had been out East, and had come home saying there weren't enough hospitals out there – so we were pulled out of Normandy and sent up to Scotland to wait for a boat to India, which wasn't until January 1945. So that was the end of my Normandy experience No 1. You'll have to wait until the editor orders me to write again to say how I got to Rangoon, Saigon and Singapore.

Alan Boon

In the Garden



In the Garden in February

This month brings the first signs of spring, with displays of snowdrops, aconites and cyclamen. However, there is still a risk of frost in February, so keep tender plants protected.

Cut old leaves off hellebores to expose the flowers and control leaf-spot, and keep deadheading winter pansies to keep them flowering. Cut back any grasses which have been left uncut over winter and prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering. If you didn't do it in

January, prune wisteria and summer-flowering clematis, but don't prune spring-flowering plants or you will lose this year's display. There is still time to take hardwood cuttings from woody shrubs such as willow and dogwood. Cut some of your coloured dogwood stems back to the base so you get new coloured stems for next winter.

Towards the end of the month you can apply a balanced fertiliser, such as Growmore, to flower beds to feed the plants as they start into growth. For plants in containers, remove the top layer of compost and replace it with fresh, plus a measure of slow-release fertiliser.

For the vegetable grower, aubergines, peppers and onions can be started from seed indoors and beetroot can be sown outside in sheltered spots or under cloches. Chit early potatoes about six weeks before you aim to plant them out. Autumn-fruiting raspberries should be pruned, cutting all the stems back to ground level.

Garden Visits.

For spectacular snowdrop displays try Colesbourne Gardens near Cheltenham; open Saturdays and Sundays throughout February. Nearer home, we have three Spring Gardens open for charity: The Greyfriars, Worcester, Sat 6 Feb Dial Park, Chaddesley Corbett, 17 -18 February, and Ivy Croft, Ivington, Leominster Garden 4-25 February.

JC



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

What is love? Many songs have tried to describe it across the years. One told us that 'Love is a many-splendoured thing'. Whilst in more recent years we have been told 'Love changes everything'. The Beatles told us that, 'All you need is love', but what is this love? In the month of February, we send cards to demonstrate our love for someone. In times past, this would have been a message to someone who we were unsure of their love being returned, yet we wanted them to know they had a secret admirer. These days the cards are designed for boyfriends and girlfriends and even husbands and wives who are given the chance to say through a card that they are still in love with their partner. When it comes to finding out what love is, I have to turn to the Bible. The most famous passage on love, often used at weddings, tells us:

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all



things. (1 Corinthians 13).

It speaks of a pure unconditional love, a love embodied in the one who came into the world because the God who is Love, loved us. Jesus is God's demonstration of love to us. As we strive to love and find love may we find it in the author of love and may that love permeate our own life and those around us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 1 John 4:11-12

God Bless

Rev David Sherwin

St Peter's Church Kneeler Project

We are pleased to report that the project begun this summer is progressing well and all 45 kneelers are being enthusiastically worked, with about 10 of these already completed.

We have decided to begin Stage Two to produce a further 25, as some kind village folk are already asking to sponsor and/or work further kneelers. If you missed out last time or would like to be involved once again, please contact Brian Woodburn, Churchwarden, on 01886-888796 or Rev David Sherwin on 01886-888664 for more details.

Services in February

Mon 1 February	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tue 2 February	10:00am Holy Communion – St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 3 February	10:15 Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Thu 4 February	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
Sat 6 February	8.30am WWRT Mens Breakfast at The Talbot, Knightwick 10am-2pm Marriage Preparation at Broadwas Village Hall
SUN 7 FEBRUARY	8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel 10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 10.30am Family Worship, St Peter, Martley 10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Mon 8 February	8:30am Prayer Breakfast with Bruce Thomson
Tue 9 February	10:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 10 February	10:15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
Thu 11 February	9:00am Morning Prayer. St Laurence, Wichenford
SUN 14 FEBRUARY	8:00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10:30am Family Worship, St Laurence, Wichenford 10:30am Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley 10:30am Morning Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Mon 15 February	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Peter, Martley
Tue 16 February - Shrove Tue	10:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 17 February	10:15 Holy Communion, Heaton House
Ash Wed	7.30pm Holy Communion, St Peter, Martley
Thu 18 February	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
SUN 21 FEBRUARY	8:00am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley 9:00am Matins, St Leonard, Cotheridge 10:30am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10:30am Morning Worship, St Peter Martley 3:00pm Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel 4:00pm Evening Worship, St Laurence Wichenford
Mon 22 February	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Tue 23 February	10:00am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Wed 24 February	10:15am Holy Communion Heaton House
Thu 25 February	9:00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
SUN 28 FEBRUARY	8:00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 9:30am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley 10:30am Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas 10:30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford 6:30pm Evening Worship, St Peter Martley



Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Michelle Higgins editor@martley.org or 01886 888344 or leave articles at Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Aileen Parker—01886 888456
Church (Worcestershire West Rural Team)	<i>Rector:</i> Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 or davidwin56@aol.com <i>Curate:</i> Revd Bruce Thomson—01886 888098 <i>Assistant Priest:</i> Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Parish Council	<i>Chair:</i> Dave Cropp—01886 888398; <i>Clerk:</i> Sally Williams—01299 832949
Martley WI	<i>President:</i> Helen CoombeyJones—01886 888294
Martley & District Horticultural Society	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 or Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Martley Young Farmers	Lou Wickens—01886-812754 or Caroline Bullock—01905-333617
Path-or-Nones	John Nicklin—01886 888318 johnn@martley.org
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Police “Surgery”	CSO Matt Smith 7184—Martley Local Policing Team Tenbury Wells Police Station extn. 3581
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org
Martley Web Mesh	Richard Jackman—01886 821237 richard@martley.org John Layton—01886888460 johnl@martley.org Tom Pearsall—01886 888256 tom@martley.org
Martley Pre-School	Kath/Lucy—01886 889127 www.martleypreschool.co.uk
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303 or Sheila Richards—01886 888378
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Council	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Chairman—Bill Hylan 01886 888431
Wichenford Local Heritage Group	Heather Rendall—01886 888239

To have your organisation and its contact details appear on this list, or to change the details shown here, email editor@martley.org or leave a note for the editor at Martley Post Office.

And finally ...



OK. Christmas is well and truly over and you thought you were safe ... but here are some cracker jokes to take your mind off whatever it is you are giving up for Lent!

Q. What are the cleverest sweets?

A. *Smarties.*

Q. What sort of song would a ghost sing?

A. *A haunting melody.*

Q. Why are brides unlucky?

A. *'Cos they never marry the best man.*

Q. What do you serve but never eat?

A. *A tennis ball.*

PS this year **St Valentine's Day**, 14 February, falls on a Sunday—don't be late sending your loved one a card!



Evening Transport

See the January issue of The Villager for details of a proposal to run a pre-bookable, subsidised, evening taxi service between Martley and Worcester. Contact the Clerk to the Martley Parish Council, Sally Williams, on 01299 832949 or sally@mamble.org if you would be interested or have any comments or suggestions