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| Maer Village Newsletter  Village website – www.maervillage.co.uk  Village Hall Registered Charity Number: **503432** |
| **Easter 2020** |
| **Welcome to the Easter Newsletter**  Well, this is indeed a strange time, which none of us have experienced before. We hope everyone is safe and well, particularly family, friends and neighbours that are shielding and self-isolating. This will be very hard for some folk, but we hope you have access to all the support you need. If not…….Please see info below.  We live in a beautiful community, and spring has definitely sprung. With the weather being so lovely this week, hopefully you have been able to enjoy your gardens and some of our open spaces, It has been great to meet so many new people who have been walking, running and cycling through the village. Here are some photos to enjoy   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\IMG_1959.jpg | C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\932dab3a-e446-4ce6-921f-f19946c4acad.JPG | C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\dfe84f69-807b-47d7-8e58-be2e9f5dda19.JPG | C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\IMG_1880.jpg |   **Staying in touch/needing support**  Here is an update from Elena Sudlow on our volunteer group and how you can get help   |  | | --- | | **Maer & Aston Parish Council** | | **Clerk: eLENA sUDLOW – tHE gARDEN hOUSE, mAER, nEWCASTLE-UNDER-lYME, STAFFORDSHIRE st5 5EF**  **Tel 01782680311, Mobile 07773456321** [**maeraston@hotmail.com**](mailto:maeraston@hotmail.com)  www.maerastonparishcouncil.co.uk |   Our previous bulletin a couple of weeks ago has proved very successful and now you are able to access help for shopping/prescriptions, transport, phonecalls etc by calling my numbers above. Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered – it is wonderful that so many of you are so willing to help your neighbours    We have also created several WhatsApp groups in the different areas of the Parish – Aston, Blackbrook, Chapel Chorlton, Hill Chorlton, Maer, Minn Bank/Willowbridge  Maer Village group is run by Harry Hodgson so call him with your number and he can add you to the group. (07768992065)  It’s a great way to keep in touch, share info, quiz questions and take part in the Kinson’s daily flag competition.  You can also keep in touch via the Village hall facebook page –thanks to Gareth for creating this.- or the maervilage.co.uk website  C:\Users\Sue\Documents\MVH\a3575a5c-8498-482d-95f8-d7b4202d2cb7.jpg  C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\IMG_7421.jpg |
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| **Many of the meetings and events that we had planned over the next month or so of course have been cancelled, but here is some community updates and information for you, plus we have attached some competitions to keep you busy** |
| **Church news from Wendy Kinson**  C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\0f805367-c4e4-424a-aecd-ad4c98770a92.JPG  When most churches, particularly those in urban areas, have to be kept locked, apart from when in use, the Church Council in Maer has always tried to keep our beautiful little church open during the day and the Visitors' Book attests how much this is appreciated. So it was with much regret when the edicts came from the Archbishop of Canterbury and then from Nigel, our Vicar, that the Church must be locked because of the Coronavirus and no services to take place. It is particularly sad that our current lockdown comes during the most holy season in the Church's calendar – Easter Sunday is the high point of the Christian year and celebrated with much gusto at St Peter's, Maer. The Church always looks fabulous, full of daffodils and primroses (as does the Churchyard).  Churches up and down the land have responded to our difficult circumstances and all sorts of churches are streaming services via the internet. It's not the same as being together, but it is a way of 'being church'.  So I may be celebrating this Easter in Canterbury Cathedral or in Lichfield Cathedral (in front of my laptop) but, do you know, despite the quality of the worship and the beauty of those surroundings, I would rather be in our little church with my friends and neighbours  You can also keep in touch via the Friends of Maer Church facebook page  C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\fb3745da-7ba6-47fb-8ae7-151067cb31e4.JPG  C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\IMG_7422.jpg  **Church Wall:** Proceeding slowly, not helped by the current situation. A Structural Engineer came out last week and he will be sending his report to the Insurers. |
| **Jigsaw, Magazine and Bookswap**  **Village Hall will be open 10am-6pm:**  If you are rapidly going through your jigsaw library and wondering if you can get any new versions we may have an answer. Looking on ebay some jigsaws were on sale for £90! If you are not doing anything next week, perhaps you would like to drop off any jigsaw, magazine or book you have enjoyed. Please attach a piece of paper with your name and address, particularly if you want your item back! We will keep the items at the village hall over the weekend (to air) and I will wipe down with disinfectant where possible and then you can pick up something new from someone else.  The hall door will be open, but please keep apart and use gloves / handgel as per the current guidelines  If you can’t come to the hall then please contact Elena or Sue (01782 680521)  Any items not collected by end of the lock down can be kept for the annual village hall fair. Thank you  **Drop Off – Friday 17th April**  **Pick Up – Monday 20th April** |
| **Limerick competition**  We thought it would be great fun to get folk to take part in a Limerick Competition  This are first attempts by two villagers !!!!!! Thank you Wendy and Linda  ‘Whilst self-isolating in Maer,  I learned how to trim my own hair.  With the resulting cut, I’m glad to stay put  Lest people would all stop and stare’  The people of Maer are great  And they are quite happy to wait  The lockdown is tricky cos the consequences are sticky  Thank goodness that we’ve found new mates  They don’t all have to be about the current situation, although there are going to be a lot of interesting hairstyles at the end of lockdown!!!…………….  You can share your entries in several ways (along with you name/contact details)  Email to [bookingmearvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:bookingmearvillagehall@gmail.com), Send on the WhatsApp group page or  Post **to 2 Westonmeres Cottage ST55EF (at the top of the village past the village hall)**  Entries will be judged by Pat Stanier and Mary Fernyhough on Saturday 18th April |

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| **Did you know???** |
| Mary Fernyhough  Mary is Maer's oldest resident. For 97 years, she has lived in this area and has always been at the centre of village life – Church, Women's Institute, Garden Guild, Village Hall Committee – everything that has happened in Maer for the last 60-odd years, Mary has been at the heart of it.  Although she would be the first to admit it, her legs have now let her down but her mind and her memory are as sharp as ever, in fact better than most of us.  Immensely sociable as she is, Mary is finding the current isolation hard. She can't receive visitors because of the risk to herself and to her carers but she appreciates any contact – including a wave through the window or cards through the door  Jessie Clarke  For at least 60 years, Mary's 'little sister' (aged 96) has lived next door to her.  Jessie's mind and memory are as sharp as her sister's and, like Mary, it has been her legs that have let her down.  Following a fall in February, and a spell in hospital, she is now at Heyfields Nursing Home in Barlaston and the village seems a little emptier without Jess at her window watching the world go by. Jess would also love to receive letters cards or news  From a family of eight, there is also 'baby sister' Janet, who lives in Silverdale – she is a mere 94! |
| **A little local knowledge quiz for you**   1. What date and year was Charles Darwin born? 2. Another VERY FAMOUS person on the world stage was born on the very same day. Who was that? 3. Whilst on her ‘Grand Tour’ as a young lady, Emma Wedgwood received piano lessons from a well-known musical name.  Who was it? 4. During the late 1970s, a sporting superstar was part of Maer Cricket team. Can you name him? 5. In 1964, what was filmed at Maer Church?   Answers provided by Wendy in the next Newsletter……….. |
| **The Harrison Flag**  C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\07b5b0b7-446e-4bc2-be1d-1f8491b1cf78.JPG  This is the flag that belongs the The Harrison Shipping Line  Do you think we should adopt this as the flag of Maer Village??? |
| C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\d296c681-b67e-406f-a313-0554507c9161.JPG  Local legend tells of a ghostly rider that crosses the bridge from the hall to the church at Midnight  Have you seen her??? |

**Who’s that knocking on the door!!!!!**

We have been out and about taking some photos of front doors in Maer Village…….but do you know what house/cottage they belong to?

Answers will be in the next newsletter and on the village hall website

More in the next newsletter

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