

Maer Village Newsletter

Village website – www.maervillage.co.uk
Village Hall Registered Charity Number: 503432

June 2020



Lockdown edition No 3

With the lockdown restrictions easing over the last few weeks it has been lovely to see more activity in the village. We have welcomed more walkers and cyclists. And there have definitely been more trips out to the garden centres, so the flower beds, pots and greenhouses have had some much needed tlc.....and at last some proper rain!!!

It's just over a month ago since the last our last newsletter when we were all getting ready for VE day. And the village did itself proud. The village hall looked fantastic and so many houses were decorated with flags, bunting, poppies, photographs, rosettes and even some feather boas. At the Village Hall we observed the 2 minute silence at 11am and at 3pm listened to Churchill's speech and took part in the Nations Toast whilst listening to the Church bells ringing out. Some fantastic cakes, scones and sandwiches were also shared by folk from the community

Thanks to all who helped to make it such a special day.....Here are just a few photos
We are hoping to make a collection of all the photos which will be on view in the hall



You may remember from the last newsletter that Elena organised a collection of spare food items to donate to Alice Charity in Newcastle. There was a fantastic response and Elena and James needed two cars to take it all to the shop!!!! A huge thank you to everyone who donated and we had a lovely message from the charity



Church News

Message from Nigel

“Driving into Maer Village in the glorious sunshine, it looked stunning, as usual. However I was told that the village is changing. Visually, it looks the same, but the community spirit within it is growing, for example the ‘Maer Village Newsletter’. The restrictions are drawing people together.

The Church has also been affected. We cannot meet in the building, and its doors are locked. But the Church of God is not defined by walls or doors; just like Maer village is not defined by its houses. Worship simply finds other outlets. Our Sunday service is recorded in Maer and posted on YouTube (search ‘Whitmore, Maer, Chorlton’). A local lady told me how on Sunday mornings, she spends time with the Lord in her summerhouse as she watches the service and reading. A weekly newsletter is emailed with parish news and a link to the services; let me know if you want to receive it. There are also services from the National Church, Lichfield Cathedral, and other churches. People stay in contact through phone, Skype, Zoom and alike, with socially distant visits. Friends and neighbours shop and care for each other. Perhaps, as I hear in Maer, the church will become less defined by its buildings, rather by the lifestyle and worship of its people, and that can only be positive.”

We are hoping that the Church might be able to re-open in July

Road closure – 16th-18th June

We wanted to inform you of the new date for the road closure for the BT works
There will be no vehicle access from A51 junction past the church to the junction with Haddon Lane

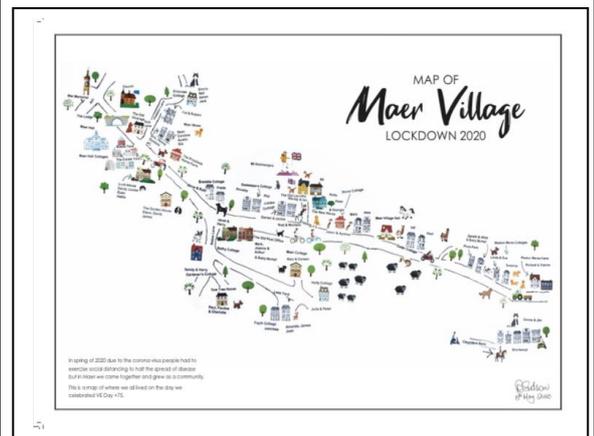
Other village news

The field that was home to the shire horses last year has recently been ploughed which attracted a huge amount of birds. Many folk went up to have a look and spotted at least 20 buzzards at one time. But we had a special visitor on a few days...A red kite (Sue’s photo)
Also, the Swifts have returned to the village hall. Hopefully they will nest again this year. Thanks to David Lovatt for making and donating some nest boxes



The flag competition kept us all entertained for many weeks and the birthday flag was raised up the flagpole on several occasions.
The Kinson’s have had a delivery of a new flag which may be the adopted flag for Maer village. You may remember this from an earlier newsletter –the Harrison’s Shipping Line flag

The WhatsApp group has been fabulous during this lockdown time and has enabled people to get to know each other.
Elena came up with a great idea for a map of the village to show who was living where during the Lockdown. She has created this with small pictures and cartoons including pets, sheep, tractors and local features. Anita has found a designer and printer so that we can make some fabulous tea-towels. Thanks to both as it looks fantastic
These will be available to buy soon at £5 each. More details to follow



Update on the Village Hall

Refurb

During this lockdown time the village hall has unfortunately been closed to all bookings, meetings and classes, but the committee and friends have used the time well to continue the refurb of the hall

A fantastic effort by Sandy, Harry, Sue and their helpers (Wendy, Linda, Jane and Janet) to recover all the material chairs in the hall. The fireplace surrounds have been spruced up (Thanks to Gareth and Ian). Paul has put up the old framed pictures and plaques and we have a new notice board inside. Plus the main hall sign and fire bucket have been spruced up.

We are looking at getting the porch re-fitted inside and having new outside doors. The work may possibly start in the next few weeks, so you may see builders there soon

Community (Fair-weather) Coffee Shop

- What would you all think about a Community Coffee Shop in Maer –at the Village Hall?
- Would you patronize it?
- Would you consider volunteering to help?
- Could you design a logo for it?

Partly inspired by the numerous cyclists/walkers in Maer recently, the Village Hall Committee is thinking about a 'Community Coffee Shop', open just a few hours a week, maybe one morning/afternoon midweek and similar at the weekend, serving drinks, hot and cold, cakes and scones. And to provide an opportunity for the local community to get together over coffee. To start with, it would have to be an outside facility, hence 'Fair-weather Coffee Shop', with a few tables in an area of the car park, but we could look at holding it inside as well once the guidelines allow.

It would need good advertising and signage, but most of all, it would need community commitment to help plan and run it. (Plus, a decent coffee machine!!!!)

So the residents of Maer, what do you think of the idea? Let Elena or Sue or Wendy (or any Village Hall Committee members) know via the WhatsApp group or if you see us.

Village History - Darwin Descendants

Wendy is our resident Darwin expert and has put together this piece on Darwin descendants. Once meetings are allowed, we are hoping to “book” her for a talk in the hall

“The Darwins and the Wedgwoods had intermarried over several generations and although Charles Darwin had reservations about marrying his first cousin (his mother and Emma’s father were both children of Josiah Wedgwood I), he and Emma produced a large and a largely healthy family. From 1839 to 1856, Emma had 10 babies and 7 survived to adulthood. Baby Mary (1842) lived less than a month and it seems likely that Emma’s last baby, Charles Waring (born 1856 when Emma was 48) had Down’s Syndrome. Darwin meticulously recorded his final son’s progress and knew something was wrong although Down’s Syndrome had not then been identified. Poor little Charles Waring died of Scarlet Fever, aged 2. Annie, the eldest daughter died aged 10 and it was her suffering that caused Charles to finally lose his faith.

Of the 5 surviving sons, 3 became Fellows of the Royal Society, 2 of these being knighted and daughter Etty (Henrietta) put together a comprehensive collection of her mother’s letters, entitled ‘A Century of Letters’.

The next generation produced George Galton Darwin, a noted physicist, and author Gwen Ravenet. Another granddaughter married into the Keynes family (the family of economist John Maynard Keynes) and Ralph Vaughan Williams was also a product of the Darwin/Wedgwood family. The current generation boasts another Emma Darwin, a novelist, and Ruth Padel, well-known poet, who in 2014 visited Maer and gave a poetry reading.

Darwin famously used the metaphor of a ‘Tree of Life’ to explore relationships between species.....the Family Tree that he and Emma produced has numerous branches and is flourishing.”

Dates for your Diary

Book/Jigsaw/Magazine swap - 13th/14th June

We had lots of donations for the last swap and you may want to swap your items again or have new ones to donate

The hall will be open on Saturday 13th June from 10-12am. All items will be immediately cleaned so that you can come in to the hall on Sunday 14th between 2- 4pm to collect

Great British Spring Clean -11th-27th September

Our litter pick and pavement clearance was really successful earlier this year so we would like to do another one as part of this national event.

The date for the village will be Saturday 12th September – meeting at the village hall at 10am
More details nearer the time

The Mighty Quiz – 18th September

We are hoping that this may still go ahead.

It is a great fundraiser for Alzheimer's Research and a fun night with friends and family
Please start to think if you would like to come along and how many might be in your team.....normally this is fully booked fairly quickly

We will let you know as soon as possible if this can still happen so be ready with your teams. If not we will move the date back to when we are able to hold it –Thanks

Christmas Fair – 21st November

This is the biggest event in the year for the village hall and helps to raise half the funds we need to keep the hall going, so we really hope this will go ahead.

As usual we will be asking for volunteers to man the stalls and donate items of all types
More details nearer the time

If it looks like this can't happen, then maybe we can hold an outside table top sale instead, so we can still raise some funds.

Walks around Maer

The lockdown and superb weather have given many people the opportunity to explore and walk around this lovely village and surrounding area. There are many footpaths that can take you to Chapel Chorlton, Standon, Shortwood, Baldwins Gate, Ashley, Maer Woods, Stableford and further afield.

There are collections of various walks in different formats that can be shared and maybe combined.....

- Wendy has a list of walks from a walking festival held previously in the village
- There is the books of George Riley walks (Five Walks round Maer) available – you can see photos of these via the facebook page of Eric - <https://www.facebook.com/ericswalks2020/>
- And Peter Beardwood has been putting together walks for the Whitmore and District Activity Living group

During your walks, if you find any footpaths that are not maintained then Linda would really like to know as the Parish Council is putting together information on footpaths that need attention – please use the hall email bookingmearvillagehall@gmail.com

If anyone would like more information about these walks then please contact any member of the committee