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| Maer Village Newsletter  Village website – www.maervillage.co.uk  Village Hall Registered Charity Number: **503432** |
| **May 2020** |
| **Lockdown edition No 2**  So as the Lockdown continues we hope this newsletter finds you, your family and friends, neighbours and colleagues safe and well.  The community has really come together during this difficult time, with offers of shopping, attending appointments, prescription collecting, exchange of books and jigsaws and maintaining communication with each other. If you are finding that you need any help with anything or want to look at the books/jigsaws in the hall then you can still contact the community group via Elena’s details  **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](http://www.maerastonparishcouncil.co.uk)  The WhatsApp chat group has been very active and a lot of fun….…. We have all taken part in the daily flag identification competition, shared quizzes, messaged about some tidy-up activities at the village hall, shared several birthdays and even coordinated Oatcake collection and deliveries (Thanks to James). If you haven’t joined the WhatsApp group yet and would like to then please contact Harry on 07768992065  We have also encouraged everyone to take part in the “Clap for Carers and Frontline Staff” at 8pm on Thursdays – we can hear whistles, clapping, pan bashing etc from Shortwood, through the village to Primrose Cottage. And you may have heard us singing Happy Birthday to Colonel Tom last week  It gives us an opportunity to give a special thanks to all the key workers and frontline staff who live in the village –THANK YOU  We also know that there are frontline workers coming into our village every day – Carers for Mary (Hayley and team), Steve our fantastic postie and the Milk Lorry drivers. So we wondered if folk had any ideas how we could show our appreciation to them  Post your ideas via the WhatsApp group or the village hall email [bookingmearvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:bookingmearvillagehall@gmail.com)  **In the last newsletter we gave you some activities to have a go at and here are the answers**  **The local knowledge quiz from Wendy**   1. What date and year was Charles Darwin born?   **ANSWER** - February 12th 1809   1. Another VERY FAMOUS person on the world stage was born on the very same day. Who was that?   **ANSWER** - Abraham Lincoln   1. Whilst on her ‘Grand Tour’ as a young lady, Emma Wedgwood received piano lessons from a well-known musical name.  Who was it?   **ANSWER** - Chopin   1. During the late 1970s, a sporting superstar was part of Maer Cricket team. Can you name him?   **ANSWER** - Geoff Hurst (was previously landlord of the Sheet Anchor)   1. In 1964, what was filmed at Maer Church?   **ANSWER** - “The Importance of Being Ernest” – filmed by ABC television using the church, the hall and grounds  **Who’s that knocking at the door?**   1. The Bothy 2. The Old Vicarage 3. No 2 Maer Cottage 4. No 2 Westonmeres cottage 5. Westonmeres Farm 6. Cedar Cottage (No 9) 7. Mary’s House (No 7) 8. Home Farm 9. The Old Laundry   Well done if you got those right and enjoyed the walk around the village |
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| **Some more updates for you** |
| **Church news from Wendy Kinson**  **News from the Pews.**  The Church may be in Lockdown (although one or two of us sneak in regularly to check all is well with the building) but the Church community is very much up and running. Like congregations up and down the land, we are finding that ‘Being Church’ doesn’t necessarily involve being IN Church. Those of us on our local Church’s email list are keeping in touch via regular noticesheets containing on-line services, readings, reflections and prayers, and by using phone calls to check on the elderly and vulnerable in our community. Plus there is masses (no pun intended) of material on the Church of England website and the Diocese of Lichfield website. Christians across the world are very much part of the explosion of charitable and community efforts that are happening.  We who are regular Churchgoers are missing worshipping together, but Christ’s first Commandment is to love God, then love your neighbour. You don’t need to be in a church building to do that.  Church of England official site – [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org/).  Diocese of Lichfield site – [www.lichfield.anglican.org](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/).  To join the Maer/Chorlton/Whitmore notice sheet, contact the Vicar, Nigel Clemas ([nclemas@hotmail.com](mailto:nclemas@hotmail.com) or ring 01782 680258).  Church Wall – nothing new to report. The Church Council has done everything that the Insurers have asked and we now await the next move from them |
| **Food collection for Alice Charity**  The community WhatsApp group have discussed about supporting a charity in this time of need  **Alice Charity** are a charity based in Newcastle supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable families  - <https://alicecharity.com/>  We would like to collect food and other items for families in need so if you have any in date packaged food/tins/jars/boxes and any spare toiletries we can collect and deliver them to the charity office.  Our volunteers will collect the items at 2pm on Thursday 7th May so please leave them in a bag on you gate/wall /front drive  THANK YOU |
| **Limerick competition**  We had some fantastic (and occasional risqué) entries to the Limerick Competition – there are some very talented folk in our community. Mary and Pat judged these to be their top six………..  C ommunity caring in Maer,  O ur kindness, we’re willing to share,  V olunteering is rife,  I n protection of life,  D arwinian theory forbear.  There are people we all want to bless  Who are coping with incredible stress  But we should concede,  Their lives we impede  The lovely staff of the NHS  In self isolation in Maer  You really don’t need to despair  In a village like mine,  We are all doing fine  Thank heaven for neighbours who care  Charles Darwin worked a solution  To life which some called revolution  They thought it a jape  To descend from an ape  But he said it is just Evolution  So down we are having to lock  It’s all been a bit of a shock  What day is today?,  Who cares anyway?  At least we’ve stopped watching the clock  In self isolation in Aston  Each day is much like the last one  But come Thursday night,  It gives us delight  To hear the sound of the Klaxon |

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| **VE Day Celebrations – 8th May** |
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| With the current Lockdown, all planned VE day celebrations have been cancelled  At the moment, its seems there are plans to move the official celebrations to the weekend of 15th/16th August to coincide with VJ day  **We will rearrange our planned village celebrations for Saturday 15th August- details to follow**  The BBC will be hosting some programmes during the day starting at 11am with a two minutes silence. An address by the Queen will be broadcast at 9pm which is the same time her father, King George VI, gave a radio address 75 years ago, and the nation will be invited to sing along to a rendition of “We'll Meet Again”  **However** we think it would be great for the village to continue to mark the actual day of **Friday** **May 8th** with our own celebrations. We are going to decorate the outside of the village hall in bunting and flags and it would be great if we could extend the display throughout the village for people to join in and folk to see as they walk around.  Here are some ideas   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Wear red white and blue – this is a great opportunity to dress up in your best colourful clothing | Union Jack Wear Red White and Blue Jester hat with bells Pack of 3 Men's T-Shirts - Red White Blue | Atlas For Men | | C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\IMG_2523.jpg | Make your own bunting, flags and poppies. We have attached a template for the poppy and flag – colour them in, glue them onto some cardboard and a stick/cane and use them for your display. Along with this newsletter we have provided everyone in the village with their own flag to wave on the day (Thanks Elena)  (but please also keep these for the August event!!!!) | | Celebrate the Nation’s toast to the Heroes of World War II at 3pm  Raise a glass and say “To those who gave so much, We thank you” | Free Toast With Champagne Glass Image｜free Cartoon - Champagne ... | | VE Day - 8th May Themed Party Supplies l Party Packs https://www.veday75.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/union-jack-party-1050x700-1-1900x601.jpg | Take a photo of yourselves and your display and Toast.  Mary and other neighbours who might not be able to get out would love to be able to see them  Please send them to the WhatsApp chat group or the website email - [bookingmearvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:bookingmearvillagehall@gmail.com)  Mary may even award a prize for the best display!!!! |   Linda and Sue will be celebrating at the village hall. During the morning we will be putting the flags up and **at 11am** we will mark the two minutes silence. Then from 2:30 onwards, we will be playing music and speeches through the PA system, so hopefully you may hear us. **At 3pm** we will raise a glass and hopefully broadcast the Nation’s Toast  If you happen to be taking your daily exercise to look at all the displays at that time then please give us a wave and a cheer (hopefully the weather will be kind) |

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| **Memories of VE day from those who were there**  We have three lovely neighbours in the village and all of them were around as either children or young women during the Second World War and of course on VE day itself. We are hoping to share their stories with you during our full VE day celebrations (now hopefully in August). But here are a few snippets |
| **Mary Ferny3hough 97**  On VE Day, Mary Fernyhough was 22, a young wife, expecting her first baby and living back home with her parents (just up the road from Maer), while husband Frederick was on active service with the RAF abroad. As she was pregnant, she had been forced to give up her work at the munitions factory at Swynnerton. She remembers a lantern procession coming down from Bates Farm to a bonfire, and also going to the Sheet Anchor for a drink. It would be a while before all the men of the village in the Forces returned, but at least the waiting women could now hope that they would return safely. |
| **Pat Stanier 86**  Pat was living in the Westlands during the war aged 11 and has some very strong memories of that time.  Food was rationed, especially sweets, so they used to be given oxo cubes as a sweet treat -2 for half a penny!! And she remembers coming home one day to a rather strange smelling stew proudly cooked by her mum. Pat and her Dad started to eat the stew, but she remembers it was truly disgusting. Her mum had heard of free meat in town so had gone to get some….. it was Whale meat (Pat has the recipe if anyone would like it !!!)  On VE they heard the announcement on the radio and all headed out into the street for a party. There had been two large cylinders in the spare bedroom for some time. She wasn’t told how they got there, but that they were flares off a ship! So for the celebrations her Dad took them into the garden at night, grabbed the tab that said PULL HERE and off they went – huge firework type rockets into the sky. Apparently he waited all night for the police to come !!!!!  Pat has a newspaper from the time and a ration food recipe book and we are hoping to display these for the full event in the village hall  C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\IMG_2524.jpg C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\IMG_2525.jpg C:\Users\Sue\Downloads\IMG_2526.jpg |
| **Freda Clarke 93**  Freda was living with her mum and dad up in the outskirts of Manchester for the war. She was 18 years old and out at work on VE day. When they all heard the news the biggest joy was to be able to take down all the blackout material from the windows and let light into the house again. The neighbours in her cul-de-sac all came together, dressed up in red white and blue and they too lit a big bonfire to celebrate the end of the war in Europe. |