



# Maer Village Newsletter

Village website – [www.maervillage.co.uk](http://www.maervillage.co.uk)  
Village hall registered charity number 503432



February 2021

## Welcome to the February Newsletter

Well...we certainly had some weather in January!!! Snow, Ice, torrential rain and flooding, causing more of the church wall to collapse!

But, the evenings are getting a bit lighter, snowdrops are showing their faces and many of our community have had at least one if not both of their vaccinations. So we are definitely on the up.

### NEWS

We held the AGM for the village hall on January 25<sup>th</sup>, where we discussed all the huge positive events and activities of last year and started on plans and ideas for this year

- Gareth and Alice are kindly donating their piano to the village hall, so hopefully that can be used for some music events this year.
- The table tennis table is now in the hall. We will be setting up a members club soon, and once exercise indoors is allowed we can start using it for fun and perhaps a friendly league
- The committee decided that as the carpark is used by many people coming to walk in and around the village that we could ask for a small donation towards the general upkeep – so there will be some notices going up encouraging visitors to donate towards using the carpark
- Because of the snow and ice making the roads and pavements treacherous, the Parish Council have kindly bought a new grit bin and bags of salt. The bin will be located in the village hall car park which will be in addition to the grit holder outside Elena's house
- Although the litter pick was cancelled last weekend, we can hopefully continue that this weekend. A few folk did come along to donate books, jigsaws and magazines. We are happy to accept any more for swapping so please let Wendy know and the hall will be open again for collecting – this will be on the afternoon of the Darwin event.

### Church News

During this current lockdown, our 3 churches are meeting via Zoom every Sunday morning. The Zoom room opens at 10.15 with the service starting at 10.30.

As with any Church of England service, anyone is welcome to join – the log in is the same each week – go to Zoom/join a meeting, Meeting ID: 885 1942 6344. Passcode:702395.

The Church building is open every Thursday from 10 – 4 and the Churchyard is always open! Snowdrops coming on fast there and the primroses are growing too.

#### Church Wall.

At last the Insurance Company seem to be moving and there was a useful meeting at the site with Staffs Highways and a Structural Engineering Company representative sent by the loss adjuster. The structural engineer present at the meeting has sent in an 8-page report with recommendations.

We expect the Insurance Company to pay for the wall that has fallen; the Church Council will need to make a decision about whether it makes sense to strengthen a further part of the wall whilst the specialist equipment is on site. But this would be at the Church's expense. So now once quotes are obtained and a company approved, hopefully work can start. If anyone wants to know any more details, let Wendy know and she will be happy to forward emails.

### Alice Foodbank Charity

We had a message round via the WhatsApp group that the charity were in urgent need of some more donations. Elena yet again received many bags of donated food items from the villagers as well as other folk donating money directly. James is still volunteer driving for the charity three times a week and we know they are very grateful for all the support from us.

# Charles Darwin Birthday Celebrations

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm -7.45pm**

Charles Darwin is one of Maer's most famous residents and it will be his 212<sup>th</sup> birthday on 12.02.2021 (a perfect palindrome)

So any excuse for cake and flying of the birthday flag and to wish the Grand Old Man Happy Birthday!!!!

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February – hall open from 2pm-5pm**

To celebrate, there will be birthday cake in the Village Hall and a Darwin-related picture quiz. The man himself won't be joining us – he's been spending his birthdays in Westminster Abbey since 1882.

The Village Hall will be open from 2 -5, so if you're passing on your daily walk, do call in, collect a piece of cake and have a go at the quiz – answers also provided!! Wendy has a huge amount of knowledge about Charles Darwin so we hope this will be educational too. Take away coffee/tea will also be available which we are still allowed to do under current restrictions.

## Would you like to have your own piece of Maer Village Hall?

When the porch was being refurbished we managed to save 50 of the beautiful original Staffordshire blue and red stone floor tiles and keep them safe for a special occasion.

The village hall was built in 1856 by William Davenport (when he lived in Maer Hall) so these tiles could be over 150 years old!!!

Sue has spent quite some time cleaning them and hand painting each one with an iconic Darwin image which will make a unique memento to commemorate this birthday celebration.

The four images are:

- The tree of life, The evolution of man, The Darwin Fish, Charles Darwin portrait



Each tile costs £5 and will help us raise ongoing funding for the village hall. They will be on sale in the hall during the opening times, but if you are not able to get there and you would like to purchase a tile (or several) then please contact Sue Jackson



# Maer Trust-a-Trader



It is hard sometimes to find a trade person or company that you can trust, but that also does the job you want, when you want it and for a reasonable price. So if you have found one or more and are happy to share their details, then we are putting a list together of trusted tradespeople

Below is an index of trades.....It's not definitive and if you think any have been missed, put them in! The index is going to go on the Village Hall website and if any of you can pass on any relevant tradespeople, could you let Wendy or Linda know the details? Write on this page and post through Wendy's letterbox. Or use WhatsApp, email or a phone call. Once we've collated all the names we hope we're going to get, we can share the list.

**Boiler repair and servicing**  
**Bricklayers.**  
**Carpets and flooring.**  
**Computer help and repair.**  
**Cookers.**  
**Decorators.**  
**Dishwasher repair.**  
**Drains specialists.**  
**Electricians.**  
**Fridges/freezers.**  
**Gardening/Landscaping**  
**General Builders.**

**Kitchen installation.**  
**Locksmiths.**  
**Pest control.**  
**Plastering.**  
**Plumbing.**  
**Roofers.**  
**Sweeps.**  
**Television and television aerials.**  
**Tree surgeons.**  
**Washing machines.**  
**Windows cleaning**  
**Window/door installation.**

Many thanks for your help with this list. We think it will be a really useful resource for current residents and new members of our community

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**Village Hall Website - [www.maervillage.co.uk](http://www.maervillage.co.uk)**

If you would like to see anything else on the website please let Linda know

And don't forget our [facebook page](#) – please add comments, photos and likes



Maer Village Hall