



Maer Village Newsletter

Village website – www.maervillage.co.uk

 Maer Village Hall

Village hall registered charity number 503432



May 2021

Welcome to the May Newsletter

According to the Met Office, “April 2021 had the lowest average minimum temperatures for April in the UK since 1922, as air frost and clear conditions combined for a frost-laden, chilly month, despite long hours of sunshine!!!”

It’s been pretty windy too.....so definitely a challenge for gardeners and walkers. Despite this, the trees, bushes and flowers are coming into full bloom and the bluebells up Haddon lane and the wild garlic up the dell off Bate’s lane are spectacular this year.

And the next stage out of lockdown is very nearly here.....hoorah.

NEWS

Excellent news this month is that our very own Elena Sudlow has been **shortlisted for the category of Volunteer of the Year** in the Support Staffordshire Star Awards 2021.

She was nominated last year for all volunteering work she does not just for Maer village, but for the wider community and parish. Elena gives up so much of her time and support to other people and causes, that she thoroughly deserves to be shortlisted.

The awards ceremony is virtual this year so there will be a live-streaming of the **Newcastle-under-Lyme Volunteer Star Awards** on YouTube on **Tuesday 8th June at 7.30pm**

A link to be able to watch the ceremony will be available on the Support Staffordshire website soon, but we will share this with everyone as soon as we have it. We have submitted a (highly professional) video which will be screened if Elena wins!!

GOOD LUCK ELENA



On the 1st May there was an online version of the Mighty Quiz to raise funds for Alzheimer’s Research UK. There were teams from all over the country including Edinburgh, Devon and Cheltenham as well as many from our local community and throughout the Newcastle and Stoke area.

The questions had a definite orange theme to them as well as some educational questions on the brain and its function.

Do you know.....

“How many segments are there in a chocolate orange?”

“What percentage of the brain is made up of water?”

Sandy, Harry and Harley came a respectable joint 3rd whilst Amanda and Jim from Lees Yard came a brilliant 2nd

Best of all is that £635 was raised for ARUK

Thanks to Linda for IT support and to all those who joined the quiz and donated to this fabulous cause.

We are hoping to run the next one indoors as usual in September

Church News from Wendy

Although the Zoom Church services have been very successful, in the next few weeks, congregations will be returning to our three beautiful old churches (Maer, Whitmore and Chapel Chorlton). To re-open or stay closed has been a difficult decision as although the Zoom services have meant that even the vulnerable and those isolating can participate safely, those who are unable to access the Zoom technology have been left out. A return to the church buildings won't be a return to normal as face masks will have to be worn and no singing is allowed yet. We are hoping to open Maer Church for its first service on Sunday 30th May at 9.30am

We will be holding a 'Maer Walks' day – details of different walks, tours of the village and church plus cream teas and cakes, at the Village Hall. This will be on Saturday July 10th, 2-5 pm. Something for everyone! Put the date in your diaries – more details to follow soon.

Village Hall News

Village Hall Re-opening (www.maervillage.co.uk)

The village hall is ready and looking forward to re-open from 17th May.

Although still some slight restrictions on numbers for certain events this is fantastic news as we can take bookings for parties etc as well as restart meetings, groups and activities. If you would like to book the hall or have any ideas for new groups and events, then please contact Wendy (bookings secretary) on 01782 680613. You can visit the website and view the calendar of bookings and the forms needed.

Table Tennis Group

We can start the Table Tennis group after the 17th May. We have quite a big group of keen (and mixed ability) players already and Harry will be in touch soon with more detail via the TT WhatsApp group. If you haven't joined yet and would like to then please contact Harry. All abilities really welcome.

Kitchen upgrade

The kitchen upgrade is almost complete with the dishwasher going in this week and we have all the new crockery and kitchen items required for food safety requirements and covid rules. Big thanks to Sandy.



MAER & ASTON PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

We have just held our last zoom meeting as by law we need to hold our next meeting face to face.

This will be **Thursday 24th June 2021 at Maer Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

Members of the public are welcome to come along

The Parish Council has a number of issues on its agenda such as Highways and road safety, HS2, community matters, and also considers planning applications made in the area.

We currently have a couple of vacancies for Parish Councillors (particularly to represent Maer) We are only asking for a couple of hours a month. If you feel that you would like to get a bit more involved in your local community and become a Parish Councillor, please give Elena a call on 01782 680311 or 07773456321

Alice Charity Food Collection – Message from Elena

Following our very successful food bank, toy and easter egg collections over the past year, we would like to support the Alice Charity again. Last time we managed two carloads of provisions for those less fortunate which was absolutely amazing. Food cupboard items are very much needed meat based tinned food and snack items for children as they will be off school for half term, are particularly high in demand. If you would like to donate you can **call Elena on 07773456321 or 680311** and I will arrange a collection. I am aiming to send items in following the weekend 22/23 May 2021.

You could also drop off in the hall when you visit the Spring Fair on the 22nd





Plant Sale and Spring Fair
Saturday May 22nd – 12-2pm
Maer Village Hall



We are really looking forward to the village hall being open again and having its first event since Christmas. We have worked hard to ensure that the event and hall is fully covid compliant. The stalls will be distanced from each other with hand sanitizer available.

We aim to have the stalls outside under cover of gazebos, and you can go into the hall for the café and choose to sit in or take away. If the weather is awful, we are allowed to move the stalls inside and we will use the one way system in and out of the hall – and bring a broly!!!

STALLS

- There will be a large stall for the plant sale – on offer will be bedding plants such as geraniums and marigolds, vegetable/fruit plants such as courgettes, chillies, tomatoes and strawberries, and other plants such as herbs and grasses, etc
- We have a produce and cake stall - homemade jams, jellies etc and many choices of cakes and biscuits from our fabulous star bakers.
- We also have a new craft stall run by a local team of crafters.
- There will be the usual bottle stall and a combined book, children's toys and bric-a-brac gift stall
- The fabulous Potteries fundraising team for Alzheimer's Research UK will be asking you to try your luck on the human fruit machine – prizes every time.
- There will be a games corner to test your skills
- And the local Whitmore and District Activity Living Group will be there to tell you all about the group activities and events.

CAFE

We are excited to announce that we will be running our first village hall Community Café. The menu will include paninis, oatcakes, soup, and a choice of hot and cold drinks so please pop inside and see what's on offer.

Please come along and bring your friends and family and help support this fabulous community event. We know parking will be a bit busy, so please park carefully on the road throughout the village. If any of Maer neighbours can offer their drives for parking as well, please let me know. Thanks

YOUR HELP PLEASE

If you have any unwanted gifts/items and bottles for the tombola and bottle stall that would be great We will have the village hall open on Friday 21st from 5-6pm for drop off, or if you prefer, we will be setting up from 9am on the Saturday morning when you can drop off cakes and plants as well. If you need items collecting, then contact Sue or Linda

We would like the village to be lovely for all our visitors, so we need to tidy the car park and pavement before the event. If you are free to give a bit of time on Sunday 16th May from 3-4pm to help, then that would be great. More hands will get the job done quicker. – thank you.
You may also get to meet Arthur (age 3) who is a regular scooter at the village hall car park on a Sunday afternoon



The Great British Spring Clean 28th May - 13th June

You may have seen in the news that we are fast approaching The Great British Spring Clean. The event being led by Keep Britain Tidy is designed to encourage individuals/groups and do a tidy up in our local community.

During the 28th May – 13th June these events will be registered under this National campaign in a bid to 'Keep Britain Tidy'. We will be able to submit how long we spent litter picking, how many bags collected, and the distance cleared as part of the [#millionmiles](#) / [#litterpickingheroes](#) campaign

To be part of the “solution for a cleaner environment” meet at the village hall on [Saturday 5th June at 10am](#) for an hour of community litter picking



For those wanted to increase their learning there is a NEW COURSE available

Equine and Bovine Basic Life Support

This was supposed to run on 1st April this year, but had to be postponed.

For further detail contact Harry via the WhatsApp group



FACT or FICTION?

Cucumbers

1. Cucumbers contain most of the vitamins you need every day, just one cucumber contains Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Folic Acid, Vitamin C, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium and Zinc.
2. Feeling tired in the afternoon, put down the caffeinated soda and pick up a cucumber. Cucumbers are a good source of B vitamins and Carbohydrates that can provide that quick pick-me-up that can last for hours.
3. Tired of your bathroom mirror fogging up after a shower? Try rubbing a cucumber slice along the mirror, it will eliminate the fog and provide a soothing, spa-like fragrance.
4. Are grubs and slugs ruining your planting beds? Place a few slices in a small pie tin and your garden will be free of pests all season long. The chemicals in the cucumber react with the aluminium to give off a scent undetectable to humans but drive garden pests crazy and make them flee the area.
5. Looking for a fast and easy way to remove cellulite before going out or to the pool? Try rubbing a slice or two of cucumbers along your problem area for a few minutes, the phytochemicals in the cucumber cause the collagen in your skin to tighten, firming up the outer layer and reducing the visibility of cellulite. Works great on wrinkles too!!!
6. Want to avoid a hangover or terrible headache? Eat a few cucumber slices before going to bed and wake up refreshed and headache free. Cucumbers contain enough sugar, B vitamins and electrolytes to replenish essential nutrients the body lost, keeping everything in equilibrium, avoiding both a hangover and headache!!
7. Looking to fight off that afternoon or evening snacking binge? Cucumbers have been used for centuries and often used by European trappers, traders and explores for quick meals to thwart off starvation.
8. Have an important meeting or job interview and you realized that you don't have enough time to polish your shoes? Rub a freshly cut cucumber over the shoe, its chemicals will provide a quick and durable shine that not only looks great but also repels water.
9. Out of WD 40 and need to fix a squeaky hinge? Take a cucumber slice and rub it along the problematic hinge, and voila, the squeak is gone!
10. Stressed out and don't have time for massage, facial or visit to the spa? Cut up an entire cucumber and place it in a boiling pot of water, the chemicals and nutrients from the cucumber will react with the boiling water and be released in the steam, creating a soothing, relaxing aroma that has been shown the reduce stress in new mothers and college students during final exams.
11. Just finish a business lunch and realize you don't have gum or mints? Take a slice of cucumber and press it to the roof of your mouth with your tongue for 30 seconds to eliminate bad breath, the phytochemicals will kill the bacteria in your mouth responsible for causing bad breath.
12. Looking for a 'green' way to clean your taps, sinks or stainless steel? Take a slice of cucumber and rub it on the surface you want to clean, not only will it remove years of tarnish and bring back the shine, but it won't leave streaks and won't harm you fingers or fingernails while you clean.
13. Using a pen and made a mistake? Take the outside of the cucumber and slowly use it to erase the pen writing, also works great on crayons and markers that the kids have used to decorate the walls!!