



Maer Village Newsletter

Village website – www.maervillage.co.uk

 Maer Village Hall

Village hall registered charity number 503432



December 2021

Welcome to the December Newsletter

Well, November was generally a very quiet month treating us to fantastic autumn colours, misty mornings, glorious sunsets and bright full moons..... But it definitely decided to end with a bang.

Friday 26th November will be a memorable date – Black Friday lived up to its name in many ways !!!!

In the early hours of the morning a fire took hold in the retail shopping area of Slaters causing damage to several units and businesses. Shocking news for those shops especially before Christmas

Then, **Storm Arwen** took hold across the country.....

Late Friday evening the lights went out!!!! A power cut affected the whole village and neighbouring communities including Blackbrook. Initially we were told the power would be on by 8am Saturday morning, but that information changed throughout the day until we found out that it wasn't going to be back on until the Sunday night. The community, as always, came together, providing hot water to those who couldn't make any, freezer space was offered by friends and family, takeaways bought, and fires stoked, and lots of messages to keep everyone connected. Fantastic to have the support from such great fiends and neighbours

We were supposed to have the village hall lights all done for the switch on event Saturday afternoon, but the wind was too strong to put the big outdoor tree up. However, many people came to the hall to get all the inside decorations up and we were provided with tea on a camping stove and home baked cakes. The nativity stall was completed with local straw, so that everything would be ready for when we had electricity back on. Really lovely to get new folk and the kids involved making new stars and decorations.

We thought we could get the outside tree up on Sunday afternoon, but then came the snow !!!! Really !!!! Thankfully the power came back on at about 4pm so we could all get warm, washed and fed.

We did hear that many homes in Blackbrook did not have power back on till 2pm Monday morning and that some vulnerable residents had to be taken to hospital. Our thoughts are with them for a speedy recovery.



Toast and a brew on the go!



We are hoping to get the outside tree up this week before the craft fair event and get all the lights switched on..... We will let folk know details via WhatsApp, but hopefully tree going up Thursday afternoon.

If anyone is free to help out in the Café for a couple of hours, please contact Sandy

Other news

Poppy Day

The weather was kind for Remembrance Sunday. There was a lovely service at the church and then a further service and laying of wreaths at the memorial. Thanks to Ari for the lovely photo



Church News from Wendy

'We hear the Christmas angels, The Great Glad Tidings tell.....'

The word 'Christmas' means Christ's Mass – the festival of Christ's birthday and 25th December has been the date set for this festival since the Fourth Century and probably much earlier.

This Christmas in Maer, there are services on :-

Sun 12th Dec at 9.30 am (Gift Service)

Sun 19th Dec at 3 pm (Carol Service)

Christmas Day at 9 am – Family service



Gift Service – Sun 12th December at 9.30 am.

We invite all those attending to bring gifts – toys, books, gift tokens, sweets – plus any non-perishable food items to this service. These will be distributed to local charities – The Alice Charity, Newcastle Food Bank and the Salvation Army.



For those not able to attend the church service, the Village Hall will also be open on **Saturday 11th December, from 10 - 4** where you can take your donations.

James Whale is very willing to collect and take in to support needy families in North Staffordshire. Last year 6000 extra gifts were donated to help children who would otherwise not have enjoyed very much on Christmas morning

Carol Service – Sun 19th December at 3 pm.

Last year, despite Covid restrictions, we managed an open-air Carol Service. This year we hope to be inside in the warm!

There will be a short service in Church at 3 pm, then if the weather is kind, we will process through the village singing carols. At 3.45, there will be more carols at the Village Hall, as it goes dark, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone welcome.



Regular activities at Maer Village Hall

Knit and Natter

Every Thursday Morning from 10am – 12noon

Come along and have a chat and a coffee and maybe even learn some new craft skills - Contact Shani on 07929118221

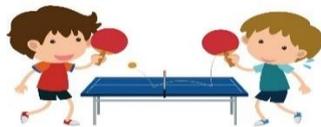


Table Tennis Group

Tuesday and Wednesday from 6.30-7.30pm

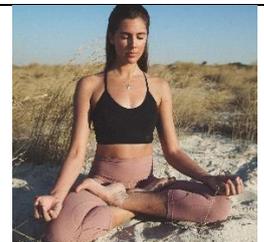
Come and have a game with us. We have two tables to play on and can provide bats for you - All levels welcome

Yoga with Pip

Thursday 6-7pm - Slow and Steady Yoga. A slow and steady practice that encourages focus on the connection between breath and movement

Thursday 7.15-8.15pm - Improvers Yoga. A dynamic 60 minute flow – energising class for those looking to challenge their practice

For more details contact Pip on - <https://www.yogawithpip.com/>, or 07787077846



NEWS from the Parish Council

Road Closure

As you may already know, in order to fix the church wall the road will be closed affecting access in and out of the village.

This is the information on the road closure notice.....

“NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council on 21 December 2021 made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Road From A51 Stone Road To Clayalders Bank in Maer from its junction with A51 Stone Road to its junction with Haddon Lane unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Access for pedestrians and cyclists will be available.

An alternative route for traffic is available via A51 Stone Road, A51 Through Stableford, A51 The Rowe, A519 Newcastle Road, Station Road, Mill Lane, Maer Lane, Road From A51 Stone Road to Clayalders Bank and vice versa

The order will come into operation on 3 January 2022 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 11 February 2022”.

Elena has been working extremely hard to liaise with the Highways department to try and negotiate a traffic light system for Haddon Lane and possible re-opening for weekends. However, there is nothing agreed as yet and further talks with the contractors are needed Elena will keep us updated on any further news and progress so look out on social media (WhatsApp and Facebook) for any developments.

Councillor Vacancy



We are seeking a further Councillor to represent Maer at Parish Council level. We have been advertising on the noticeboard for nearly six months now since Pat Stanier retired and may soon need to advertise to the wider Parish but we would much prefer if someone in Maer would join.

We only need a few hours a month to attend a meeting, listening and talking with your neighbours and showing an interest in local issues. If anyone is interested, we have monthly meetings, most of which are via zoom and at least 4 meetings physically at either Maer or Aston village hall.

Currently a few of the issues Councillors are discussing are: - lobbying for help with the up coming road closure in Maer, commenting on the Local Plan which will determine where future development may take place and discussing mitigating factors for the upcoming HS2 construction.

Please contact Elena Sudlow on 01782 680311 or maeraston@hotmail.com if you think you might like to join us or would like a bit more information.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR – Menu information

Christmas Crafts and Café
Sunday 5th December 2021

11am–4pm



Crafts and Gifts for sale



Coffee, Cake and Christmas
Delights.

Maer Village Hall ST5 5EF

Christmas Craft Café



Savoury Sensations

Toasties

Turkey, Bacon and Cheese (with cranberry sauce on the side)

Cheese and Ham (with chutney on the side)

Cheese and Tomato (with garlic mayo on the side)

Baps

Hot Turkey and Stuffing

Cheese and Salad

Sausage Rolls

Cheese and Onion Pasties

Vegetable Soup and a Roll

Children's Box including sandwich, crisps, bar, juice and fruit

Sweet Sensations

Christmas Cake (gluten free available)

Mince Pie with cream (gluten free available)

Stollen

Orange and Cranberry Scones with jam and cream

Chocolate and Black Cherry Cake

..and to toast the season.....

Hot Drinks

English Breakfast Tea

Coffee

Decaf Coffee

Hot Chocolate with cream and marshmallows

Cold Drinks

Coke Zero / Pepsi Max

Orange Juice

Milk / Chocolate Milk

NB Some items may contain nuts. Allergen list available. Please advise us of any allergies.

Dates for your Diary – please share.

Maer and District Garden Guild

For the last meeting of the year the Garden Guild is having a Festive Quiz night -Sue Jackson has been volunteered to be quiz mistress!!!!

This is on **Monday 13th December starting at 7.30pm**

Coffee, tea and mince pies will be provided, but you can also bring you own drinks and snacks.

Members, friends, families, and neighbours all welcome



Where does the poinsettia originate from?

The Whitmore And District Activity Living Group

Everyone is welcome to join the group for the last event of the year
Tuesday 14th December in Whitmore Village Hall from 2.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m.

Theme: A Christmas Carol; a variety of fun activities, music and song with a Festive Celebration focus

Open to Members and Non Members alike.

Entrance Fee: £2.50 (includes light refreshments)

Bookings to be made in advance either by email

to: louisendavidharrison@btinternet.com or by telephone to (01782) 681155