

Spring Forward

This spring when the land had dried up enough we were out with the drill to start planting seed in the soil. The soil was still wet underneath, we were having to dig the rear roller out every other turn! This you might think would be good because it meant the seed was going into moisture, well that's what we thought but after we drilled the barley the weather turned dry, cold and windy. Some of the seed grew but some seed just sat in the soil and didn't grow for 6 weeks till a couple of days of rain and some warmth from the sun made the remaining seed chit and grow. This now looks like two crops in one field! This has been the 4th year out of 5 that we've had a dry Spring (Global Warming?). All this impacts on grain prices and is something we as farmers can do nothing about.

One of the fields of Oil Seed Rape was decimated by pigeons over the winter but has recently recovered. The yield will have been affected but there will be something to harvest. In the wheats and some of the winter barley there are problems with a weed called Blackgrass which used to be controlled with a chemical spray that actually worked, this chemical has now been removed from use by the government and as a result it is becoming difficult to grow these crops and of course the knock on effect is lower yields and therefore prices increase. I know this sounds like a lot of moaning but food prices are going up with everything that is happening in the world and we as farmers cannot do anything about the weather, government legislation, crop pests or world events. Crop yields are less than nearly 40 years ago. In 1984 we averaged 4.2 tons/acre of wheat and now we are lucky to get 3.7 tons/acre and this applies to other crops too.

On the cattle side of the farm there are also challenges. The rise in prices of wheat, barley, oats etc. has had a major impact on feed prices for finishing cattle. Pressure from the green lobby to reduce cattle numbers and the rise in vegetarianism/veganism is all contributing to reduced production. In Ireland a survey of farmers has found that 50% of cattle farmers are planning to reduce numbers and I think that this applies also to the rest of the UK. All of these problems in farming will impact on food prices going forward and I don't know where it will end.

On a different note please check your security, we have had 2 break-ins on the farm recently, the first time a lock was smashed and removed, they took hand power tools. A few days later they returned and despite the fact that the forklift was blocking the doorway they stole our quad bike! THEY HAD CUT A HOLE IN THE DOOR TO GET IN!

Anthony White

Your Parish Councillors

Cllr. Mr D. Whitehouse..... 01507 450811 (Chair)
Cllr. Mrs B. Williams.....01507 450246 (Vice Chair)
Cllr. Mr A. G. White.....01507 450392
Cllr Mrs Jane Gray01507 450372
Cllr. Mr S. Hill-Andrews.....01507 451843
Parish Clerk, Graham Simpson...01754 880131

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings prior to their commencement at 7.00pm., there is a 10 minutes public session where the public can ask questions, raise points and make comments.

Future Council Meetings July 16th. September 12th.
November 14th

Remain Calm, Mildly Irritated or Scream & Shout

"No Sir, I cannot discuss the claim with you. We have an automated decision making system in place"...."You are number 7 in the queue"...."Donations by monthly direct debit only"...."Pay parking fee by debit card only"...."Please state the third and seventh characters of your password. If you are unable to do this, continue to hold for our next available adviser"...."We are experiencing a high volume of calls at this time, Please hang up and try again later"...."Yes Sir, I realise that it urgent, but we are unable to get an engineer to call and effect a repair until a week Friday"...."Your call is important to us"...."We no longer accept orders by telephone. All orders must be made via our website www".... "Did you know that most orders, questions and general enquires can be dealt with quickly by visiting our website? If you still want to speak to an adviser, please continue to hold"...."Appointments for the service appliances can only be made via our website www"...."Parking fees should be paid via your smartphone"...."What do you mean, you haven't got a Smartphone. Everybody has one these days don't they?"...."Oh, yes Sir, if you want an electric car you must have a Smartphone"...."We no longer accept payment by cheque"....The next urgent appointment available is in three days time"...."The service is under severe pressure tonight Sir. It will be at least two hours before we can get an ambulance to you. It may be more"...."No, there no instructions with it. You can find all the information you need online"...."That publication is only available as an e-book"...."Well, that's what it says on my screen"...

Gordon Pack

Village Hall News

It's difficult to believe that summer has arrived, with the weather as it has been over the past week or so; spoiling many organised events. A number of the Village Hall Committee were busy organising the Queens Jubilee event in the hall, which I am told was a great success and included a live singer, a disco and the usual raffle and tombola. The Jubilee Sunday outdoor event, was rained-off and had to be transferred in-to the Village Hall. The rest of the committee felt like 'puppets on a string' endeavouring to manage the day-to-day running of the hall; through all the additional demands expected of them.

The monthly coffee mornings remain popular, with many new faces attending and numbers increasing month-by-month.

In the future we hope to arrange other events, which we all hope will be well attended and enjoyable.

I know many of you reading this will be going to your summer breaks, so it just remains for me to wish you all a pleasurable summer and the committee at Maltby -le-Marsh Hall hope to see you many of you, at the hall, very soon.

Steve Hill-Andrews, Secretary.