

Spring Watch

I was once advised by a wise old farmer that to make a small fortune in farming you need to start with a big one! The only problem is we and people who would like to start in farming don't have a large fortune, in fact it is virtually impossible to get started in farming without subsidising the farm with another job, unless of course you are a celebrity or business person who has made a fortune elsewhere. In our case it has taken 5 generations and 100 years to get to where we are today and still we are only making a living. My Great Grandfather started with a blacksmiths shop, about 10 cows and approximately 20 acres of land, the family built it up to 750 acres and 500 head of cattle the point being he could make a living from a fraction of the land and livestock that I and son Jack have today but Gt. Grandfather didn't have the burden of paperwork, regulations and anti farming propaganda that we have today. When I was a lad there were at least 10 farmers and 20 -30 farm workers living in Maltby le Marsh now I could count on one hand those that are left in the village. Why is this? Farming has been squeezed into near extinction by the consistent drive for cheap food. The evidence is there for all to see from supermarkets dictating the size, shape and price of everything on their shelves to shortages because farmers are cutting back or stopping production altogether due to increase in cost.

I have been watching recent wildlife programmes on TV and yet again farmers are being blamed for the reduction in wildlife. What I and other farmers have seen is that there are more predators in the Wildlife. Only last week I saw a buzzard feeding on a hare it had caught being watched by 16 Magpies waiting for the leftovers. A neighbouring farmer also saw a buzzard attack a Barn Owl on the wing, nature adapts to survive and things are happening that we haven't witnessed before. I think it is the smaller wildlife that is suffering due to the proliferation of the larger animals e.g. deer, badgers, foxes and buzzards which we see much more on the farm.

On a more positive note we are moving out of winter into spring with warmer, brighter days when the cows and calves will be able to go out to grass and crops will really start to grow. Cattle prices are holding up well due to a shortage in national production, but wheat, barley and oilseed rape prices have fallen around 30-40% due to better global yields. This proves very difficult in making decisions on the farm as we have to plan so far ahead, it's a bit like playing poker but takes much longer!

Enjoy the spring and lets hope it helps with cheaper energy bills during the warmer months.

Anthony White

100 Club Winners**January**

No. 50 Bernie Emmerson £35 No 34 Jane Gray £17.50 Village Hall £17.50

February

No. 23 Alan Wisdom £35 No. 79 Steve Hill-Andrews £18 Village Hall £18

March

No. 81 Sally May Gray £35 No.12 Sharlot Edmonds £19 Village Hall £19

April

No. 34 Jane Gray £37 No. 86 Maureen Waters £19 Village Hall £19

Village Hall Forthcoming Events**May**

Sunday 7th..Kings Coronation Afternoon Tea. 3pm - 6pm. Adults £5.00, Children under 12 £3.00. Bring your own drink.

Monday 8th..Village Litter Pick Up. 10 - 12am. Coffee and cake after.

June

Saturday 17th..Table Top Sale 10 - 12am £5.00 per table

July

Saturday 15th.. Quiz Night 8-10pm. Lasagna, Garlic Bread and Salad. £5.00 Vegetarian option on request. Bring your own drink.

Maltby le Marsh WI

We had an interesting start to the year beginning with our 43rd Birthday Party in January; a very interesting talk in February on living in France from two of our members, a visit to Farmer Browns for coffee and a Ten Pin Bowling followed by a Fish and Chip supper. Our AGM in Marsh has provided us with a new President in June Havell, with Brenda Williams kindly taking up the post of Vice President after 10 years in the President's role. If you would like to join us one evening and come as a visitor, we meet on the third Monday of the month at 19.30pm in the Village Hall.

Best Kept Garden Competition

Time is running out to get those gardens ready for this years Garden Competition. The competition is sponsored by Woodthorpe Hall Garden Centre and are donating a garden voucher to the winner. You will also have your name engraved on the Anne Graves Cup. The gardens will be judged in July and the judges will not go into your garden but will judge it from the roadside.

**Village Hall Coffee Morning**

A very busy coffee morning last Saturday that kept the ladies behind the scenes on their toes with the washing up and serving the teas and coffee's.



Being the first coffee morning this month and also the Easter weekend, the Annual Easter Bonnet competition was held with a good turnout of entrants from adults to children, with the youngest, Isla Hildreth-Edmond only being 5 months. A hard

decision for the judge, Claire Suddaby from Hope House, but the winner of the childrens class was Isla Hildreth-Edmond (at the back with dad) and in the adult section, from only 2 entrants, Linda Alldridge and the winner Susan Proctor.

**Eastfield Farm Opens Cafe**

A new Tea rooms were open for the first time last weekend for visitors who are visiting the farm to buy plants and vegetables, a few teething troubles in the cafe at first, but a steady stream of customers who enjoyed the tea and cakes all served by two very helpful ladies behind the counter. Also at the weekend at the farm it was an open house for families to see new born lambs, much to the delight of the children who able to hold and feed the newly born lambs.



Maltby-le-Marsh Village Hall Annual General Meeting

I would firstly like to thank all present and previous members of the committee for their continued support and splendid efforts in helping to run and fundraise for the hall.



It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of one of our former members, Sue Bootes, who sadly passed away earlier this month. A much valued member of our village hall. She was a fabulous person and always

eager to help. Our condolences to Sue's mother, Colin and all her family.

Extreme thanks go to Pearl and Brenda who make the drinks each and every month for the coffee mornings, also Ann who does a splendid job of waiting on the tables and serving drinks and biscuits to our visitors. Thank you also to Wendy for baking the cakes etc. to sell on the stall, and to Susan for organising and running the tombola stall.

A big thank you to Maureen for continuing to be our valued treasurer and again to Wendy for helping her with the banking and monthly figures. Derrick too has been a great asset to the village hall with his fabulous cooking skills with the help of his wife Ann.

Thank you also to Julie for keeping the hall in tip top condition, it has been commented many times on the cleanliness of the building.

Various events have taken place in the last twelve months, such as the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration that was a great success thanks to present and past member's hard work and dedication in advertising and selling tickets. Then there was the Halloween party where catering was done by Derrick and Ann. Soup and a roll was also provided when it was the Remembrance Service coffee morning, as well as a New Year's Eve celebration that was enjoyed by a few loyal people.

Events planned for later this include as Easter Bonnet competition for the children, a table top sale, a quiz and a Kings Coronation tea party, as well as the continuation of the Warm Spaces project subject to resident's use of the programme.

Fund-raising is done with the help of the various groups that use the hall including the W.I, the Dog Training Club, More Than a Yarn group of friends and the Bible Reading Class. As well as the regular Coffee Mornings held on the second Saturday of the Month. The Hundred Club operated by Sally helps also to add around £20 per month.

Hall lettings are steady with the addition of the new sign board advertising the mobile number for bookings, kindly taken by Wendy.

Kevin Proctor,

Chairperson, Strubby, Beesby and Maltby le Marsh Village Hall

Village Hall Committee 2023 - 2024

Mr Kevin Proctor	Chair	01507 450384
Mrs Susan Proctor	Vice/Chair	01507 450 384
Mrs Maureen Townsend.	Treasurer	01623 556198
Mrs Wendy Hill-Andrews	Asst. Treasurer	01507 451843
Mrs Brenda Williams		01507 450246
Mrs Pearl White		01507 466311
Mr Derrick Fatcher		07828777273
Mrs Ann Fatcher		07828777273

The position of Secretary is still vacant, Kevin and Susan will continue in the rol

Annual Parish Meeting 2023lk

The last year has to me, one of a degree of sadness and frustration. Sadness of Phillips funeral on 25th March. The loss of someone who worked hard for the community following his manta of making the most of today because tomorrow it will piss down.

The frustration is with the attitude of ELDC, especially the planning department. Having attended one of their meetings and viewed others on utube, it is patently clear that our comments on planning applications are ignored. The committee discussions are in extreme, members simply accepting the planning officers recommendations. Thus the caravan site at Rose Marie was promptly passed in December despite numerous written objections. The committee seemed impressed by the provision of tactile paving enabling partially sighted people to cross the safely! I would thank Helen Cooksey for her efforts. The Parish meeting in July saw some 46 residents raise their concerns, all to no avail.

We were also asked to comment on a hedge removal in September. Several months later Graham enquired what the outcome was. He was told ELDC could do nothing because it wasn't protected. One wonders why we were asked.

The saga of foot-way light 20 is further evidence. It was clearly beyond the powers that be to connect the new light when the column was erected. Thus over 2 years later the light is still not working.

We have held 5 meetings during the year. Graham has again been very efficient in promptly pursuing matters despite meeting several brick walls. Our sincere thanks for your efforts and patience. I also thank my fellow Councillors for their help and support in particular Brenda my Vice Chairman. Thanks also to Sandra Harrison and Noi Sear for your regular attendances. We do appreciate hearing from you and following up on our concerns at County and District.

Sadly the Garden Competition WA cancelled because the judge was unable to come until it was to late. He promises to ensure its carried out in good time this year. It was also sad to lose the Post Office facility at Oham Lakes and perhaps with more impact the news paper service. The brick building near the Crown was demolished in August. It is unlikely the post box that was in it will be replaced. Despite losing these facilities ELDC still classify our village as medium and will continue to do so until a revue is carried out, in the distant future. At least we now have a farm shop. Pipa and Ben Williams selling fresh vegetables and plants at Eastfield Farm. The long running confusion about the ownership of the structure on the bus shelter was finally solved by an eagle eyed resident in December. Anglian Water accepted it was theirs, and their proposed compensation for the 14 months it was there, has been agreed.

The Police camera van has continued to appear on a regular basis. I am pursuing funding for the village sign project that we launched in 2016, with GDF Community Partnership. Very early stages at the moment. We also continue to administer the Anne Bolles Educational Foundation. There were no applications for support at the AGM in November.

I thank John Alldridge for continuing to produce his excellent News Letter and the helpers who deliver them. Thanks also to Anthony for his regular column giving a clear insight into farming life. In conclusion thanks also to John Clark for auditing our accounts and to Robert Alldridge for his work in the village in keeping the grass tidy and the footpaths clear.

David Whitehouse, Chairman, Maltby le Marsh Parish Coun

