

The Grapevine

SEAMER & TAME BRIDGE MAGAZINE

No. 185 April - May 2024

**Keep up to date with what's happening locally by visiting
Seamer Village Website: seamervillage.co.uk
or Facebook group: *Seamer Local's Chit Chat***



EDITOR'S NOTES

Hope you are all well. We hope you enjoy reading what is a bumper edition of Grapevine with new regular contributors and hopefully more interesting articles.

It is our first real attempt as a team in putting it together and we hope you enjoy it.

The next edition will cover June and July and you should note that it may not be delivered to you by the 1st June, the date of **The Big Lunch** event, so put that in your diary quickly. and look out for posters, etc nearer the time. Even better, be part of the organising and make it an event you will enjoy!

Articles for the next Grapevine should be sent to us all by MAY 26th at 08.00 (yes the correct date this time!!)

Happy reading

Dave Campy: david.campy123@btinternet.com

Allison Routledge: Allison.grapevine@gmail.com

Faye Aspinall: faye.aspinall80@outlook.com

STOKESLEY PARISH CHURCH AND ST MARTIN'S

6th April, 9.30-11.30, Coffee and Cake, Kids Crafts

26th April 7.30pm, Snake Davis concert

4th May 9.30-11.30am, Coffee and Cake, Kids Crafts

9th May 11am Ascension Day service at St Martin's, Seamer

For more information, visit www.stokesleyparishchurch.org.uk or our Facebook page [@stokesleyparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/stokesleyparishchurch)

SEAMER VILLAGE HALL

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday May 14th at 7.30pm

If you're interested in helping run the Village Hall &/or have any questions **please** do come along - with ideas for new ventures as well.

Everyone welcome.

We NEED new young (or old!) blood!!



VILLAGE HALL NEWS AND EVENTS

POP IN

Held in the village hall on Mondays during school terms, from 10 - noon. Come along and meet up with friends and neighbours for tea/coffee and home made scones. Cost £1.50. Everyone welcome.

NOW & THEN magazines are available to collect from the village hall when open (see Hall Timetable page 4).

PLAY AND STAY

Held in the Village Hall , **Thursdays 10 – 11.30am**, for all pre-school children and their parents/grandparents/carers. **Cost £2 per child**. For more information contact

Allison at: allison.grapevine@gmail.com

BRIDGE GROUP

Are you an experienced player or would you like to learn how to play? Come along, it costs £2.50 per session and includes refreshments. Bridge is held in the Village Hall on **Thursday afternoons from 1–3pm**. **Note this may change once the summer comes!!**

Contact Yvonne on 01642 710804

NORMAL PILATES CLASS

This meets Tuesdays, 6-7pm Seamer Village Hall

You can either or pay as you go at the class which is £5, or book online via the website at : <https://gymcatch.com/app/provider/1491/events>

Please let me know if you would like to join in, just so I know numbers, and please bring your own mat.

Any questions? Contact

Rachel Chapman

email - thehealthtoolkit@outlook.com or message on **07946324080**

PILATES FOR THE MENOPAUSE

This meets Mondays, 6-7pm in Seamer Village Hall Open to anyone at any stage of the menopause. **£7 a class** Booking is essential. For questions and bookings, message Racheal on **07946324080**

TABLE TENNIS

Held in the village hall on **Wednesdays from 7-9pm**. Cost £2 a session.

Come along and join us, no experience required. Keeps you active and helps with fitness.

Contact **Mark** on medinnov8@hotmail.com or just come along on the night.

CARPET BOWLS

Held in the village hall on Tuesdays 10am – noon. Cost - £2 per session

Come along and join us for a very informal game of carpet bowls. No experience required. You get gentle exercise, a good laugh and a tea/coffee break.

Contact *Christine on 01642 701733*

BOOK CLUB

We continue to meet once a month usually on the 4th Tuesday in the month at 8.30pm in the Village Hall,

We take turns to provide refreshments and choose the book to be read. Our next meeting will be on the 23rd April

If you enjoy reading and a good chat please join us!

Ann Thomas

VILLAGE HALL BOOK SWAP

Do you have any books that you have read and no longer want. Would you like to donate them to the village hall book swap for other residents to read and enjoy? They can be left at the hall when it is open for activities (see Hall Timetable).

Monday	Pop-In 10 - 12 am	Pilates for the Menopause 6-7 pm
Tuesday	Carpet Bowls 10-12am	Pilates Class 6 - 7 pm Hall Committee meeting 7.30pm (1st Tuesday every second month) Seamer Parish Council 7.00pm (3rd Tuesday every second month) Book Club 8.30 pm (4th Tuesday)
Wednesday		Table Tennis 7.00pm
Thursday	Play and Stay 10 - 11.30 am	Bridge Group 1-3 pm

MEETING RE: THE BIG LUNCH 2024

On *Saturday 1st June*, Seamer Village Hall will host ‘The Big Lunch 2024’, the UK’s annual get together, so save the date in your diaries!

The event is a fantastic way to enjoy food, fun and friendship.

If you would like to be involved, and have suggestions on what we could include at this years' event, please feel free to *pop along to the hall* on *Tuesday 9th April* at 7:30pm to meet with our organisers. Everyone is welcome!

Village Hall Committee

SEAMER VILLAGE HALL 100+ CLUB

.February winners (129 members)

1 st	£20	26	Jean Bainbridge, Tanton Close
2 nd	£15	70	Kath Cook, Hilton Road
3 rd	£12	83	Julie Allen, Hilton Road
4 th	£10	88	Glenn McGill, Leconfield
5 th	£ 7	10	Robert Jinks, Croft Hills

March winners were (128 members)

1 st	£20	73	Jayne Kendall, Stainton Road
2 nd	£15	13	Jim Ashley, Stokesley
3 rd	£12	160	Dave Thompson, Hilton Road
4 th	£10	103	Alison Cook, Hemlington
5 th	£ 7	49	June Brodrick, Leconfield

For those members who joined in April/May last year, this means that you are due to join again. I will contact you by email, phone or call and see you. If you are not at home, I will leave a letter with details of how to contact me.

To help me to remind you when your renewal fees are due, could you please let me have your e-mail address or telephone number. This is easier than me coming to see you.

If you have recently moved here and would like to become a member, it costs £12 a year per number and each month half the monthly money is given out as prize money and the other half goes to the village hall funds.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Christine Cooper , chris_cooper1@hotmail.com, 01642 701733

ITEMS TO RECYCLE

Used stamps

Please save your used postage stamps to donate to charity. Stamps need to be left with a 1 centimetre border all around.

Plastic milk bottle tops

Only bottle tops from plastic cartons of fresh milk, please. Also, please make sure they are washed.

Ann Thomas and Christine Cooper

WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOPS



Below are details of my spring workshops. New dates have been added including a two day round shopping basket workshop and a joint Summer Succulent Wreath workshop with Helen from Harvest Moon Floral. They are all suitable for beginners and those with some willow weaving experience. The fee includes all materials, use of tools, hot drinks and homemade cakes. On the full day workshops you will need to bring a packed

lunch. The venue for most of the workshops is Thornton Grange Farm, Seamer Road, Thornton, Middlesbrough TS8 9BZ unless an alternative venue is included in the workshop description.

Workshops can now be booked ***online in my SumUp shop*** or by email

jane-chapman.sumupstore.com or jcchapman10@gmail.com

Berry Baskets Saturday 6th April



On this workshop we will use a variety of traditional basketry techniques to create a small round berry basket with a simple pegged handle. The venue is Thornton Grange Farm, Time 10am to 4.30pm. Fee £75

Garden Obelisks - Monday 15th April, 6-9pm (only one place left)



On this workshop we will use traditional basket weaving techniques to create beautiful obelisks for your garden they make excellent plant supports or can be decorated with strings of lights. £40 Venue Thornton Grange Farm

Square Trug Workshop - Sunday 5th May 2024



On this workshop you will use traditional willow weaving techniques to make a sturdy rectangular trug excellent for use in the garden. 10am to 5pm £85 venue Thornton Grange Farm

Summer Succulent Wreath - Saturday 18th May 2024

This is a joint workshop with myself and Helen from Harvest Moon Floral Art. We will make a round willow wreath and decorate it with a variety of succulents and other plant materials to create a beautiful decoration for your home.

2pm to 5pm , £55. Venue Seamer Memorial Hall, The Green Seamer, Middlesbrough

Willow flowers - Sunday 2nd June 2024



On this workshop we will use traditional willow weaving techniques to create beautiful Willow flowers
1 - 4pm, £40. Venue Thornton Grange Farm

Round Shopper - Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June 2024



On this workshop we will use traditional basketry techniques to create a round shopping basket with a handle. Making this over two days will give us time to explore material selection and preparation and the different techniques in greater detail. 10am -4-30pm, £150. Venue Seamer Memorial Hall, The Green, Seamer, Middlesbrough

Workshops at Broadrake

This year I am delighted to be teaching two workshops at Broadrake in the Yorkshire Dales, it is a beautiful farm overlooking the Ribble Head Viaduct.

Round Shopper 22/23rd May 2024

Bottle Basket 6/7th November 2024

For further details and to book these courses check out their website

<https://broadrake.co.uk/workshops.html>

If you have any questions please contact me by email at



jcchapman10@gmail.com

I am also happy to organise workshops for groups of friends between 2-6 people please contact me to discuss your requirements.

WORRIED ABOUT THE COST OF LIVING?

If you're struggling to pay for food and other essentials, there are local schemes and organisations in North Yorkshire which may be able to help or point you in the right direction. You'll find information about emergency financial support, managing debt, benefit entitlement, energy bills and staying connected all in one place at

www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving

North Yorkshire Council's cost of living web page also has information about pension credit, schemes to help families and local community-based support including Warm Welcome spaces as well as advice on staying safe and well.

If you're less confident with technology and have friends or family who might be able to help you understand what support is available with the cost of living, please ask them to look at the web page with you. You can also go into any North Yorkshire library or North Yorkshire Council office. If you're not sure who to turn to, you can call North Yorkshire Council's customer service centre on **0300 1312131** Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm asking for 'cost of living help' when prompted.

MESSAGE FROM ALLISON

So I have finally retired after 44 years in the financial sector (well apart from my Seamer Parish Clerk job of course!), and I am looking forward to spending more time playing golf, keeping fit and with my family. I am keen to do some walking and wondered if anyone could suggest a group, as I'm not too good with a map. I want to do some challenging walks circa 10 miles per day, like the Cleveland Way, which I have started and would like to complete and Hadrians wall as examples. If you have any contacts please can you email me. Thank you .

Allison allison.grapevine@gmail.com

MAKING OUR VILLAGE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

You may be aware that the village has the benefit of a community fund which is money given to us from the windfarm. This money is available to improve the village and the life of its residents. It is under utilised and the Parish Council are very keen to hear ideas from residents about how we can spend this fund. An application form can be found on the village web site. <http://seamervillage.co.uk/>

Please apply before committing to funds. This can include anything e.g. events, activities, aesthetics of the village. We also have contributions from any new house builds, called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which can be spent on infrastructure. We are talking a few thousand

pounds here so cannot commit to large projects, but if you have any suggestions please let us know.

Parish Council email: allison.seampcc@outlook.com

SEAMER PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Minutes Seamer Parish Council Meeting 16 January 2024

We discussed erection of the **bus shelter** – resolved to pay for and take delivery of the shelter and to contact a further authorised contractor for a quote.

Village planters will be replaced or removed once summer bedding plants are ready. Plants are on order. Gardener needs to confirm if he wishes to continue. If not quotes to be obtained for new one.

Village pond. We continue to work with Labman re aeration, hay bale has disintegrated and so difficult to remove. A councillor has agreed to trim back the foliage around the pond.

Discussed provision of services to young school age children in the village. Proposed further contact with residents to be made via Grapevine to engage with the youngsters. A meeting is to be arranged to hear their ideas.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

This application was discussed at the end of the meeting when Councillor Marshall left the room.

Applicant Mr & Mrs Cook: Revised application for Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the creation of 9 residential dwellings at Springwell Nurseries Stainton Road Seamer Middlesbrough North Yorkshire TS9 5NARef. No: 20/02224/OUT | Received: Tue 06 Oct 2020 | Validated: Tue 06 Oct 2020 | Status: Awaiting decision.

The council discussed this matter (without Councillor Marshall present who declared an interest). Whilst in principle they supported the application they reverted to comments on previous applications about the sustainability of the village and wanted to limit the number of properties to be built. They also wanted consideration to be made for footpaths, retention of existing boundaries (greenery, trees and hedges) and suggested that a public space e.g. Playground could be included in the plans.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS PENDING

Applicant: The Trustees of Nunthorpe Gospel Hall Trust. Ref: ZB23/01652/FUL
Date: 11 August 2023

PROPOSAL: Change of use from (C3) dwelling house to (F1) church. **LOCATION:** St Helier, Hilton Road, Seamer, Middlesbrough. Status' Awaiting decision.

Applicants: C.Nicolson et al, Address: Land off Leconfield, Seamer, reference: ZB23/01020/OUT , Proposal: Outline application with some matters reserved (considering access) for the construction of 4no. dwellings, Status: Awaiting decision.

Applicants: A. Person & R. Burgess, Address: Former Recycling Depot Tame Bridge TS9 5LQ Reference: ZB23/00976/FUL, Proposal: Construction of a dwelling, Status: Awaiting decision.

Discussed the receipt of **CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payments** from new builds in the village. Agreed to ring-fence the funds as they have to spent on infrastructure e.g. contribution to bus shelter.

Police Report. There were 2 incidents in the parish in December (theft and violence).

Approved the purchase of a Parish Council lap top and printer. (max spend to be approved)

Review of Parish Council Standing orders was approved.

Received the **bank account balances** to 30th November 2023 and bank reconciliation.

Bank Balances @ 30 November 2023	
Business	£6,988.15
Reserve	£3,565.48
Total parish funds	£10,553.63
Community	£34,317.15

Received an update from Councillor Mark Murphy chair of the **Village Hall Committee**. There is extensive remedial work required on the roof. Information was passed onto the village hall committee about a fund which could be applied for. Expression of interest needed to be submitted with 3rd (of 4 rounds) closing on 31st January. It is unlikely, due to timescales that full application would be submitted for round 3.

Email from resident about street light out on Stokesley Road (Eastwood Villas). Parish Clerk has been advised it is not the council's responsibility. We have made contact with Nobles but with little progress to report.

The Community fund. Considered and approved 2 applications for funding. One for tree guards for newly planted trees on private land in the village £613.44. One for the knitted characters seen displayed around the village and on post boxes at Christmas £130.

To confirm that the date of the **May meeting is changed to Tuesday 7th May** due to clerk's holiday commitments.

FORTHCOMING MEETING DATES 2024

19th March, **7th May**, 16th July, September 17th and 19th November 2024. (All meetings have a 7pm start time).

Minutes of this meeting and agendas prior to meetings are displayed on the noticeboards and on the village website. Residents can access information about Parish Council meetings in the following ways: -

Attendance at the bi-monthly Parish Council Meetings, details of which are publicised in various locations ,e.g. Parish notice boards and website. Grapevine articles, Parish Council minutes displayed as above. Residents can contact the Parish Council via email to discuss any matters that are of concern to them.

Any resident who attends forms part of the discussions and all viewpoints are taken into account when making a final decision on any matters.

All matters relating to the Community Fund are also discussed at the Parish Council meetings.

Maureen Marshall, Acting Chair of the Parish Council

Email: allison.seamerpcc@outlook.com

Seamer Parish Council encompasses Seamer and Tame Bridge.

SEAMER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MAY 2024

We wish to provide advance notice of a change in the normal date of the parish council in May 2024.

This will take place on Tuesday 7th May @ 7pm.

HELP REQUIRED PLEASE

As some of you may know, our village gardener has had an accident and is out of action for quite a while. As a result, the Parish Council is asking for volunteers to help with the planting/maintaining of this year's flower tubs.

The plants have been ordered and will arrive around the middle of May.

Volunteers are needed for clearing old plants and debris from planters, to replenish soil and feed and installing the plants the following day (dates to be confirmed).

Over the summer, we would also like to ask that anyone who has flower barrels near to their property, could they keep an eye on them and water when needed (with our present weather not an arduous task!!!).

If anyone would like to help, please let the PC Clerk know by emailing allison.seamerpcc@oulook.com

Editor (Dave): I will do the one near the Pond! And the garden near the boundary sign.

MAYORAL ELECTIONS

The York and North Yorkshire Mayor will be chosen by you in the first York and North Yorkshire Mayoral election on Thursday 2nd May 2024.

The Mayor will lead the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, with investment of £540 million to be spent over the next 30 years. The Mayor and Combined Authority will have powers and responsibilities devolved to them by central government. This includes powers to improve the supply and quality of housing and funds to improve transport.

You must be registered to vote in this election by 16th April 2024. Find out if you are registered and how to vote at

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/mayoralelection>

You can cast your vote however it suits you – in person, by post or by proxy, which is when you identify someone to vote on your behalf.

If you are voting in person you will need to bring a Photo ID to your polling station. You can make sure you have an accepted form of identification here:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/how-vote

If you don't have an accepted form of identification, you can apply for free voter ID by 5pm on Wednesday 24th April. Apply for free voter ID here:

www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

You can vote from home if you can't or don't want to go to your polling station on election day. Registering to vote by post is easy - you'll simply need to prove your identity. Apply for a new postal vote or cancel an existing one, before the deadline of 5pm on Wednesday 17th April at:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/apply-postal-vote

You can apply for a trusted friend or family member to cast your vote by proxy at your polling station at

www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/apply-proxy-vote

Apply for a proxy vote for this election before the deadline of 5pm on Wednesday 24th April.

You can also call 0300 131 2 131 (please say 'Election' when prompted) to request information about how to vote.

Accessible formats are available on request

Parish Council

OIL CLUB

Next Order date: 1st week of May

Delivery: approximately 3rd week in the month.

Contacts, *David Ward 01642 710333 or Gordon Reed 01642 711495*

Editors: We have been asked by a resident to thank David Ward for all his efforts on behalf of Seamer Residents regarding the OIL CLUB. Together with keeping an eye on the Village Hall security, he is a valuable contributor to the Seamer Community We are very happy to do so, *THANK YOU David!*

SEAMER METHODIST CHURCH

TIMES OF WORSHIP

The following lists those leading worship at 10.30 am

7th April led by Rev Andrew Robinson

14th April led by Ron Kirk

21st April led by Rev Rob Weir - Holy Communion

28th April led by David Sills

5th May led by Rev Trevor Haigh

12th May led by Rev Rob Weir - Holy Communion

19st May led by Christine Campy

26th May led by Ron Kirk

A warm welcome is promised to anyone who would like to join us.

SHORTCUT THROUGH METHODIST CHURCH GROUNDS

Many residents will have used the shortcut through the Methodist Church grounds between the main road and back alley, and we have no objection to that practice continuing. However, it is not an official Right of Way which places responsibilities on the landowner for maintenance, safety etc. To this end, it has brought to our notice that this practice can only continue if **for one day of the year, access to this shortcut is prohibited**. We will be doing this once a date has been fixed and measures are in place to do it.

We are very sorry and hope any inconvenience caused will be minimal.

Seamer Methodist Church

NORTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY MESSAGING

(www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Neighbourhood watch produces a regular newsletter with useful information and offers about security, both physical and virtual. See their website: ***<https://s-url.co/uMUBA>***

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Read and sign up to their digital newsletter to keep updated with news and stories from across North Yorkshire

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk>

DO YOU NEED A LIFT TO STOKESLEY? TO THE SHOPS?

The community Bus now comes to Seamer on Friday at approximately 10.10 am and returns at 12.00 noon. Contact Community Care to book a place on ***01642 710085***

MOBILE POST OFFICE

The mobile post office van comes to the village on **Tuesdays** from **11.15 – 11.45am**, parking on the low green near the post box. It offers a full range of services and greetings cards, newspapers, magazines and sweets can also be purchased.

SPEEDWATCH

Speedwatch is now back! The number of volunteers has fallen so it may only be once a week. If you would like to join us and give about an hour a week then you would be very welcome. It is also an opportunity to have a chat with fellow residents and catch up on news!

The VAS (vehicle activated sign) has now moved onto Crathorne and will be back with us in late May. The latest results do show what looks like a big improvement in all figures for Seamer Village. But perhaps the fact that the weather was atrocious for nearly all the time was responsible for the more careful driving.

Tame bridge also overall showed a noticeable improvement in most respects but two points should be noted:

1. On the first day of its use, there were speeds of 80 (1), 75 (4), 70 (2), 65 (3) and numerous 60mph recorded throughout the day. This would seem to indicate VAS has an impact as throughout the rest of the 21 days it was in Tame Bridge there was only one other instance of 80 mph (late night) and whilst 60 mph was common speeds above this were rare. Still not good but better!

2. There appears to have been a big increase in the number of vehicles passing through Tame Bridge towards Stokesley on a Wednesday. Anyone have any ideas? Contact Dave on **01642 710320**

SpeedwatchTeam Contact :phil@philandviv.co.uk or on 07710322772.

LITTER PICKING

As the weather improves, it is hoped to carry out some organised litter picking around the village. If anyone is interested in taking part, then please contact

Phil Hyman phil@philandviv.co.uk or

Christine Campy Christine.campy@hotmail.co.uk

THE MANOR FARM DIARIES.



Firstly, let me introduce myself. I am Matthew Nichols, the 5th generation of the Nichols family to farm here at Manor Farm, just on the South East edge of Seamer Village.

I have recently turned 31 years old, married to Kate Nichols with baby number one on the way (due 19th April), passionate about agriculture, food production and the future of agriculture in this country.

The farm was bought back in 1908 by the late Howard Nichols of Greystones Farm. Howard opened a couple of sand and gravel quarries in Seamer and farmed across both Greystones and Manor Farm. Upon retirement, Howard sold Greystones Farm and left the land and buildings to one of his sons- the late Thomas Buckle.

During Thomas Buckle's time at Manor Farm, he would lease the quarries to third parties and upon closure, they were also used as land fill sites and then covered over using relatively decent topsoil. Thomas Buckle would become father to my late grandfather, Thomas Geoffrey and they ended up working together on the farm producing grains and pigs.

Due to changing times and more mouths to feed, there was not enough income produced from the farm alone to support more than one family and so Geoffrey, in his 20s, decided to set up a business in plant and groundworks alongside the farm. Whilst doing so he decided to move spoil and stone using his own lorry. This is when he fell in love with

haulage and so changed his business model to TB TG Nichols Bulk Haulage. You may remember the light blue and red wagons coming and going throughout the village.

Geoff married Rita Sanderson from Stokesley and they had 2 children, my late father Michael Thomas and my Auntie Katie. Both would help out on the farm occasionally when needed but there wasn't the work to sustain everybody in the family and so they both went out to work elsewhere and made a life of their own. Back in 1995, Geoffrey decided to retire from haulage and farm the land alone using help from contractors.

At the age of 13, I started to spend a lot of time helping out (or getting in the way) at Greystones Farm at the top of Seamer Village. Upon leaving school, I secured my first official job there and attended college one day per week to study agriculture. This gave me a really good footing and I cannot thank college enough for the encouragement they gave me.

At 19, I took the opportunity to become an agronomist for a large national company; they took me on as a trainee, trained me and put me through the qualifications needed to legally advise on crop production.

At 23, I had decided I wanted to tread my own path, so I resigned from that position and set up my own business offering crop production advice and chemical application. During these years, we had sadly lost both my mother and father to battles with cancer, and my late grandfather was starting to slow down due to health issues of his own. In 2018, I took on the role of farming the land and buildings at Manor Farm alongside my late grandfather, who sadly passed away that winter. I now farm the land in partnership with my gran, Rita.

Alongside the farming business at Manor Farm, I still offer an independent advice service to other local farmers and, more recently, the contracting services to farm the land on their behalf.

I contacted the Grapevine producers and asked if I could do a small column in the magazine with one thing in mind, to try to re-engage with consumers and to try to share accurate information about farming, food production and rural life. In today's fast paced world, it seems that we can all get caught up in our own little bubbles. It's always somebody else's problem or why should I care if they don't. Hopefully as the months go by, I can use this column to educate, provoke thought and answer any questions that derive from it.

AGRICULTURE OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS?

Since August 2023, Wet, Wet, Wet..... (I feel it in my fingers, I feel it in my toes) no not them lot!

As a nation we have suffered the wettest 18 months since 1871, as farmers we do need the rain to get crops growing, and I know we are never happy. Its always either too dry or too wet but this year has been a wash out so far. At Manor Farm this autumn we have established a range of crops. We have winter wheat, used predominantly to produce animal feed at the local feed mill or bioethanol at the ENSUS plant on Teesside. We have established a field of grass, clover and herbs which will be used to build soil organic matter & produce natural healthy lambs for the butcher. Alongside that we have 2 alternative break crops in the crop rotation, we have winter oilseed rape which may not survive due to insect and pigeon damage and winter linseed. The oilseed rape, should it survive may be used for cold pressing to produce human consumption oil and the linseed will go for either seed production for next year or to a crushing plant to produce oil for pharmaceutical products.

The land here at Manor farm is relatively free draining, loamy soil and so it has coped with the wet weather better than most. Since the 1st January until 20th March, we have received 135.5mm of rain fall with some events reaching upwards of 25mm at once it seems relentless. The temperatures have been higher than average and there has been very little ground frost this winter. You may even notice that hedges and plants in your garden a springing into life earlier than perhaps they normally would.

Around the farm we have a small pheasant shoot where we rear the birds during the summer months and we shoot through the winter until the end of January. Some would say this is barbaric and everyone is entitled to their own opinion; however, it is just another means of farming food. Every bird that is taken on the farm is used as food just like you may buy chicken from the shop, we will use the pheasant in its place. It is the healthiest natural, low cholesterol meat you will find in fact it has higher protein, less fat and less cholesterol than chicken. Those that don't get taken will roam, breed or succumb to nature's end. As part of this we do establish areas around the farm to enhance natural habitats and provide food and shelter for roaming and wild birds. One of the species of wild birds that I am interested in is the English Grey Partridge. We do not shoot the English Grey Partridge as a rule as numbers are low. As farms pulled out hedges and crops were pushed for food production post war in the late 40s and 50s, the numbers of these birds declined. As part of what we are doing here at Manor Farm, the planting of new hedges, establishment of grass and flower margins, the supplementary feeding

over the winter months and the careful control of vermin, I have recently counted 13 breeding pairs of English Grey Partridge and to me that is a great success in just 5 years. We continue to supplementary feed throughout the late winter into the spring months to ensure that there is adequate feed for the roaming and wild stock.

Crops have all received an application of Nitrogen and Sulphur 2 nutrients crucial to the production of amino acids and proteins within a plant to help them grow and produce a larger crop. Nitrogen and Sulphur can also have an adverse effect on both soil and water and that is why we are trying over time to reduce the total amounts used of both on farms. Since 2018 we have been able to reduce our total use of Nitrogen to 60% of what we used to use whilst in most cases maintaining output of produce. Obviously whilst trailing new methods there has been disasters along the way but that is how we learn. With some of the fields, whilst drier after the only frost in January, we managed to apply some rotted pig manure as a source of organic, slow-release nitrogen. Not only are we cycling nutrients but by doing this we are also helping to provide soil cover, food for worms (our natural drainage) debris for small mammals to nest with and providing longer term soil organic matter – The lifeblood of any soil.

At Manor Farm I am trying to farm with a real emphasis on the regeneration of soil and the wider environment. There are 5 key principles that I am trying to practice to make the Regenerative approach work. I will discuss more around these in the future columns.

1. Keep the soil covered
2. Do not till the soil
3. Maintain a living plant in the soil
4. Diverse plant species
5. Integrate livestock

Hopefully this has been interesting reading for you as an introduction and a brief update of what is happening in the fields around you. Hopefully next time if things go to plan, I should be able to introduce you to the 6th Generation and touch more on the principles of what we do on the farm and how things are looking at that point. If you have any questions feel free to email me and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Regards, Matthew Nichols.



E MAIL SENT TO GRAPEVINE re SEAMER REMEMBRANCE MYSTERY FARTHINGS

I know it was in December last year that you sent Hilary and I the Grapevine article on the Memorial Hall and Remembrance tokens found in the old Blacksmiths building

However, we have not been idle over these past few months and have made lots of discoveries about men from Seamer who served during WW1.

The surprise might be that we have found thirty-three men with a connection to Seamer who joined the armed forces during WW1. All have interesting stories, but for some the lack of surviving military records shortens the tale. Although it is understandable why Thomas HUGILL might not have nailed a farthing up for some, others it is less clear. Allocating a name to each farthing may never be achievable.

The scroll in the Village Hall that records the four men who died during WW1 might need to be amended. Our research suggests that there could be a further three men added to that list.

We are currently doing our final reviews and then we will give it to a friend to proof read.

Our write up on these men, together with a brief story about the Thomas HUGILL and the CHANTRY's, and some detail on the Medals awarded to the combatants, covers about 32 pages of A4.

When we have the document finally proof read I will email you so that we can meet you, and any others, to discuss how we should next proceed. We have been looking at how the work could be split into sections, or instalments, so that it could be distributed over several issues of The Grapevine.

Richard Tulloch

Editors: expect further articles from Richard in the next issue.

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