

## Community Gathers to Learn about Local Farmer's Life and It's Challenges

A packed Community Hall in Horseman's Green greeted Jonathan Scott and his family on Friday evening. Jonathan, of Hanmer Mill Farm had volunteered to give a talk on "Life as a modern day dairy farmer". Jonathan is a tenant farmer on the Hanmer Estate, but his family have been farming here for three generations dating back to 1963. Indeed all his family were present offering their support. Jonathan's talk shed light on the activity and the challenges faced by all in the farming industry today. It was hard to grasp that the price received by a farmer for his milk had NOT increased for several DECADES! Jonathan explained his concerns re climate change and how farmers were working hard to combat this. He went on to encourage all of us to help reduce air miles and so carbon emissions by returning to eating seasonal foodstuffs. With regards to other future challenges his message was clear – buy British. This will help to maintain the high standards of husbandry which this country is renowned for. The audience of local residents listened intently and bombarded Jonathan with numerous questions reflecting the depth of interest in his occupation. All those who attended might well walk the local paths with a different perspective after Friday evening, reflecting on the challenges faced by those in the farming industry who work a truly 24/7 week. Jonathan brought along pictures, information and examples of feedstuffs to illustrate his talk. Jonathan's enthusiasm, knowledge and passion for his chosen profession were plain for all to see.

The idea for the talk came from a passing conversation with a local resident. It was a delight to see someone from within the community stepping forward to share their work experience and work pressures with the rest of the community.

Following the talk there were refreshments of wine, kindly donated by the NFU, (Jonathan is the chair of the Hanmer branch) and a scrumptious spread of cheeses from Belton Farm. This rounded off a superb evening thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Special and grateful thanks go to Jonathan and his family. Thanks also to all who helped at the evening which made approximately £260 for Community Hall funds.

Future events at Horseman's Green Community Hall include: A Table Top sale on Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup> (10.00am to 12.00noon), a Posh Coffee Morning on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>; a Beetle Drive in the evening of Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> and The Magic of Halloween on Friday November 1<sup>st</sup>. Find information on all these and the Gredington Classic Car and Fun Day of September 8<sup>th</sup> on the Horseman's Green Community Facebook page.