

Maiden Bradley

Parish News

No 320 February 2016



“DECKCHAIRS”

Performed by the Maiden Bradley Players
24th to 27th February 2016

Diary February 2016

1 st	Mon	Black Box, Blue & Green Bins Collection Bingo – Memorial Hall	7.00 am 7.30 for 8.00 pm
3 rd	Wed	Prayer Meeting Stretch & Recharge – Memorial Hall	6.30 pm 7.00 pm
4 th	Thu	P.C.C. Meeting – Autumn Stead	7.00 pm
6 th	Sat	Film – “Love Punch” – Memorial Hall	7.00 for 7.30 pm
7 th	Sun	Holy Communion – Church	10.00 am
8 th	Mon	Household Waste Collection	7.00 am
9 th	Tue	Parish Council Meeting – Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
10 th	Wed	Kids@MB – Memorial Hall Prayer Meeting – Condlyffe Cottage	6.00-7.30 pm 6.30 pm
12 th	Fri	Fish’n Chip Lunch – Memorial Hall	
14 th	Sun	Matins – Church	10.00 am
15 th	Mon	Black Box, Blue & Green Bins Collection	7.00 am
17 th	Wed	Lent Lunch – Condlyffe Cottage Stretch & Recharge - Memorial Hall Book Group Meeting – 37 Church Street	12.30 pm 7.00 pm 8.00 pm
18 th	Thu	Welcome Club Meeting – Horningsham Hall	2.30 pm
20nd	Sat	Copy Day for articles for March News to pat@visa-office.com	
21 st	Sun	Parish Communion_Church	10.00 am
22 nd	Mon	Household Waste Collection	7.00 am
23 rd	Tue	W.I. Meeting – Stourton Village Hall	7.30 pm
24 th	Wed	Lent Lunch – venue to be arranged Kids@MB – Memorial Hall Prayer Meeting “Deckchairs” – Memorial Hall	12.30 pm 6.00-7.30 pm 6.30 pm 6.45 for 7.45 pm
25 th	Thu	“Deckchairs” – Memorial Hall	6.45 for 7.45 pm
26 th	Fri	“Deckchairs” – Memorial Hall	6.45 for 7.45 pm
27 th	Sat	“Deckchairs” – Memorial Hall	6.45 for 7.45 pm
28 th	Sun	Holy Communion – Church	10.00 am
29 th	Mon	Black Box, Blue & Green Bin Collection	7.00 am

Mass times in Warminster and Mere:

St. George's, Warminster Saturday 6 pm (Vigil); Sunday 8 am 10 am
St. Mary's, Mere Friday 10 am; Saturday 5.30 pm

Dr Harding's Surgery every Monday at the Memorial Hall except Bank Holidays 5-6 pm.

Due to pressure of work the Surgery at Silton, Bourton, is unable to accept repeat orders for medication by telephone. Please bring your orders to Memorial Hall Surgery the week before they are due so that the Doctor can collect them.

Dustbin Day every Monday for Bank Holiday changes see Wiltshire Council web site

Mother & Toddlers every Tuesday 10.00 am to 12 noon.

Useful telephone Nos:

The Village Shop: 844206;

The Post Office: 845040;

The Pub: 844207;

Memorial Hall bookings – Mel Thomas 845111 ;

Dr. Andrew Murrison MP: 01225 358584 or
murrisona@parliament.uk

Mere Link Scheme 01747 860096;

Rev. Carol Wilson-Barker 01747 861859;

Maiden Bradley Parish News:

contributions are welcome in any format.

E-Mail: pat@visa-office.com

From the Editor:

We hope you are looking forward to the “Deck Chairs” production by Maiden Bradley Players, this month, to be held in the Memorial Hall on four consecutive evenings. The cast, all local, are excited to be staging their first production with a summer aura, in the middle of winter!

Walking the dog along Back Lane as I do on a regular basis, I cannot fail to notice the deep gouges of tyre marks left in the grass verges by, what I would presume, are heavy vehicles. For the most part, Back Lane is single track but there is excellent visibility for drivers to halt and wait at a suitable space when siting another user of the lane. Lazy drivers or non-locals who have no regard for our environment?

Pat Kennedy – 845397 pat@visa-office.com



News From The Hall February 2016

Plans are well under way for some major work to be carried out at the hall over the coming months. We hope to raise enough funds to enable us to replace the roof which has seen its best years and to reorganize and revamp the toilets creating more space.

To carry out the work we will have to raise in the region of £120.000 mainly through grants, but also with support from the community in our fund raising efforts.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Upcoming Events

February's film night is on Saturday 6th when we will be showing "The Love Punch" which we had to postpone in January.
Doors open at 7.00 pm for this very good romcom

Fish & Chips are on the lunch menu for Friday 12th February.
Book your places early as numbers will be limited.

The newly formed Maiden Bradley Players will be performing "Deck Chairs" From Wednesday 24th – Saturday 27th
Please give them your support

The Queen's Birthday Celebrations

The nation will be holding celebrations over the weekend of 4th/5th June celebrating HM 90th birthday, How can we as a community be part of this? Thoughts and ideas please to the hall committee.



Mel Thomas

Village Hall Lottery

November				
1 st J. Stevens	£22.25	2 nd Sheila Aston		£11.10
3 rd Sally Higgins	£6.75	4 th Esther Swan		£4.40
December				
1 st Mark Sheppard	£22.25	2 nd Tom Allday		£11.10
3 rd Renelle Smith	£6.75	4 th Mrs Marsh		£4.40

Since 1998 the lottery has brought in a total of £19016.70 to help maintain the village hall. Therefore £9508.50 has gone to the village hall and the same amount in prize money up to December.

If you would like to help support your Village Hall, please get in contact with John Priestner on 844244 who has some spare numbers. Only 50p per number per month, you can have more than one number. Half the draw's income goes to the Village Hall and half goes in prizes.

Parish Council January 2016

Local Councils Award Scheme - the Parish Council have received the prestigious award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. It is one of only two Councils to pass in Wiltshire at present. The achievement recognises that the council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Moreover, that Maiden Bradley Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

The Local Council Award Scheme is a peer assessed programme that has been designed to both provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities so that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

The Chairman thanked the clerk for her hard work in compiling the evidence and in terms of the future; the council will now review ways in which it can keep on improving its offer to the local community and welcomes input from local people and partners. It was agreed that Maiden Bradley and other local councils like it are at the front line of the government's localism agenda, and are doing as much as they can to delivery services, whilst being efficient and cost-effective.

Recreational Area Update – It was approved to replace the missing items on the Hippo Springers highlighted on the ROSPA report. The cost to supply and fit replacement handles, foot holds and bolt covers to the 2 hippo Springers would be £350.00 plus VAT of £70.00. The total £420.00.

Speed indicator Device – discussed the project to date and the need for funding to support the project, re insurance, calibration and maintenance. Council noted that Warminster Town Council are to receive two machines which they will control, the Parish Council will arrange their use through Warminster Town Council who will arrange for the setting up on sites, store, action the maintenance and calibration etc. The recommendation from the Town Clerk was to make available a budget of £250.00 for a year's usage. It was agreed that the pole installation of around £100.00 also needed to be added to this budget.

Council agreed to provide the budget of £350.00 for the project; speeding is a high priority in the community and listed on the Parish Plan.

Highways: as the Highways have indicated the parish could take over services that are to be restricted in the future due to funding cuts, Councillor Angus Neish has agreed that he will action the weed killing in the parish as he holds a licence and has access to the weed killing

Litter Pick: the date for this year's litter pick will be the 5th March 2016, do pop the date in your diary it is the weekend highlighted for the countrywide project Clean for the Queen's birthday. More details will follow.

If any Parishioner sees or is aware of anything which they feel needs attention in and around the parish highways, they are requested to contact Wiltshire Council using either the online website, the Wiltshire Council App or on the landline number 0300 456 0105.

Precept: The projects that are required for the 2016/2017 period within the parish were discussed. The noticeboards renovation, the provision of weed killing, provision of a Speed Indicator Device and pole, the review of the recreational area following the swimming pools removal. It was noted that £1170.00 had been spent on the play area fencing this financial year (Councillors had actioned some of the work required and saved the budget a cost of £250.00) this had not been budgeted for as the swimming pools removal had not been expected when the previous years budget had been set. It was agreed that the funds needed to be replaced in the Risk & Contingency budget; an increase in the funding for the parish news had been indicated by the news team at the parish

meeting, along with the need to provide grants to support the Village Shop, Village Hall and Groups, along with the running costs of the Council.

Council took into consideration that the Internal Auditor recommended at the previous audit that further work was required to ensure that appropriate funds are retained in the General Reserve to meet any unforeseen expense that might arise. It was agreed that the retained funds (risk & contingency funding) should be increased. The suggested phased increase was agreed of £250.00 to the £3200.00 from last year a total of £3450.00 would be actioned for the year 2016/2017.

It was agreed that £1000.00 would be set aside in grants for the community groups and clubs. The Defibrillator contract reserves were approved and £800.00 put aside under capital equipment reserves. £400.00 would be added each year so that in the next 3 year period the £1600.00 would be available for when the present contract ended.

Taking into account the above, and that the Grant received from the Government had decreased by £402.34 to £88.38, the final Precept request was approved at £13742.67 this would give a total of £13831.50. The increase of the figure for the Parish Council part of the Council tax Invoice for a band D property would therefore increase by £8.19 for the year. As Parish Councils do not have any other means of raising revenue, it was agreed that a sound budget for future planning needed to be considered and it was felt that this budget would fulfil the Parish Councils commitments for the 2016/2017 year.

Items for the next Agenda – Dates for meetings 2016/2017 and Business Continuity Plan.

Date of the next meeting- The Council agreed that Tuesday 9th February 2016 will be the date of the next Parish Council meeting.

As always, the Parish Council meeting will be open at the start with an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make comments on any matter. The website Southwilt.com (Maiden Bradley) can be accessed to read a copy of the Agenda and Minutes electronically or copies are displayed on the Community Notice Board at the village shop. Sarah Jeffries can be contacted by email: maidenbradley@virginmedia.com or phone: 01985 213436 Parish Clerk 9 Beech Grove Warminster BA12 0AB



New Councillor

Maiden Bradley Parish Council needs a new team member; if you think you would like to take the wishes of the Parish Plan forward are over 18 years of age contact the Clerk on 01985213436 or email maidenbradly@virginmedia.com for an application form.

Closing date for applications 29th February

Vacancy on the Parish Council! Being a Councillor.....

What is a councillor?

councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical unit on the council, known as a ward or - parish – in Maiden Bradley it is the entire parish. They are generally elected by the public every four years, but there is a Co-option space available on the Parish Council at the moment as no Election has been called for in the parish.

What do councillors do?

councillors have three main components to their work.

1. Decision making - Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.

2. Monitoring - councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

3. Getting involved locally - As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:

Going to meetings of local organisations such as the Rural Police Neighbourhood Tasking Group

Going to meetings of bodies affecting the wider community (The Warminster Area Board)

Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

How much time does it take up?

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about an hour a week. Obviously there are some councillors who spend more time than this - and some less, but in the main, being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community, and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

Maiden Bradley Parish Council needs a new team member; if you think you would like to take the wishes of the Parish Plan forward are over 18 years of age contact the Clerk on 01985213436 or email maidenbradly@virginmedia.com for an application form.

Closing date for applications 29th February

On the Buses!

Wiltshire Council has launched a public consultation on the future of the bus services that they currently support. Set against a backdrop of a big reduction in overall funding for council services, they have put forward a number of options aimed at saving money from the supported buses budget, and are asking for your view on these.

What are we facing?

- Almost all Wiltshire evening, Sunday and Bank Holiday bus services set to disappear.

- Withdrawal of many rural bus services.

- Interurban and town bus services to be drastically reduced.

or a "Nuclear" Option 6 which could leave vast swathes of the county without any bus services.

These Council plans could bring local bus operators to the brink of collapse and there is not enough capacity for community transport to plug gaps.

Fortunately though, there is an alternative. As part of our research work on devolution for Wiltshire and Swindon, we have put forward a Bus Franchising proposal which will avoid the wide-ranging service cuts that would inevitably follow from adopting the consultation questionnaire options, whilst protecting and laying the foundations for the future improvement of the Wiltshire bus network. The Westminster Government have designed their devolution plans so that it would be easier for local authorities to introduce Bus Franchising, the existing legislation for which is known as Quality Bus Contracts.

We are calling this "option 24/7" because it looks at people's requirements all day, every day first ... more details at <http://option247.uk> , plus an FAQ document, and a link to the Council's consultation.

Bus Franchising offers

- A network that involves YOU and your community far more, genuinely working to serve your interests and shaped by your travel needs.

- A network that opens the way for simple affordable bus fares.

- A network that is better thought through, with less duplication and more journey opportunities.

- A network that is more easily linked with other modes such as rail, making your onward journeys easier and helping to encourage the greater use of public transport overall.

- A network with reinvigorated operators making a fair, secure income through working together to provide a better overall service for you.

- A network that is solid, robust, efficient, and able to deliver the savings that Wiltshire Council require WITHOUT massive service cuts, giving you the security of knowing that your bus service is safe, and available when you need it.

- A network that through innovation strives to always be fit for purpose, and fit for future challenges and expansion.

Senior figures at Wiltshire Council have informed us that Bus Franchising can be included in the devolution proposals, but only if we can demonstrate strong public support for the idea. Therefore, we need your help as follows when you answer the questionnaire:

* Question 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 - select NO (to reject options 1 through 6)

* Question 25 - please WRITE IN "Option 24/7 preferred - www.option247.uk" (to support option 24/7)

Please copy this message as appropriate, and raise the matter at local meetings too. And please get back to me or any of the team if you have questions - by a reply to this email, via the contact form on the website at <http://option247.uk>, via the option247 facebook group. For your parishoners who are not online, please print a summary of our case from <http://option247.uk/flyer.html> , and copies of the consultation are available from libraries, on buses, or from council offices.

Graham Ellis - Supporting Option 24/7 for a positive bus future in Wiltshire - web: <http://option247.uk> Facebook group: option247 Twitter: @option247

Welcome Cub

We are looking forward to the new season of meetings and outings, here at the Welcome Club where all are literally 'welcome' to join us. Our next meeting is to be held at the Horningsham Hall at 2.30pm on Thursday 18th February when we will pay our subscriptions and view the programme for the year ahead which we hope you all will enjoy.

See you there. Chris 847373

Creative Workshop

On Saturday March 5th, I will be running a one-day Introduction to Creative Journaling workshop in Maiden Bradley Village Hall.

What is Creative Journaling? I hear you ask...It is a process of making a small book of deep personal resonance using scrapbooking, craft and journaling techniques. It allows us to take a journey into our interior world using delightfully simple and fun methods (playing with paint, glue, scraps and cuttings!) and to use these in our lives to inspire us, to explore ideas and to get clarity on problem solving. We will not be making 'art', we will be taking delight in art supplies though!

The cost will be £30 for the day, including coffee and a light lunch.

This is going to be a really enjoyable day and I hope you will be able to join us.

Email juleshorn@rocketmail.com or phone 01985 845063 to book or for more details.

Jules Horn



“ DECKCHAIRS”

Three one act plays by Jean McConnel.

Performed by the Maiden Bradley Players

24th to 27th February 2016

Licensed by permission of Samuel French -London

The acclaimed playwright, Jean McConnel, has written series of stories known as “Deckchairs” which have the common theme of two deck chairs on the promenade of a well-known seaside resort on the South Coast of England on a summers day. The story behind the plays is created by the people who sit in the deck chairs. Sometimes sinister, sometimes comic. Our cast portray the scene and stories and we hope you will be engrossed and amused for our evening’s entertainment. Each play is about 25 minutes in length with an interval between each act.

Doors Open at 6:45 pm and the performance will start promptly at 7:45pm

Tickets are available at £8.00 each and are available online www.maidenbradleyplayers.co.uk and payment may be made either by personal cheque or payment on line through Paypal or if you chose to come along to the box office Maiden Bradley Village Shop Saturdays 13th and 20th February where you can pay in cash. Email: directorjwk@gmail.co.uk or call 01985 845397 to reserve your seat at any time from 13th February 2016 or complete the order form below and drop it to the MB Village Shop at any time before the performance.

There will be a three prize raffle each evening of performance.

Confectionary and Light refreshment will be available before and during the performance intervals.

The beneficiaries of the performance will be the Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall (Renovations Projects), Maiden Bradley Village Shop and Dorothy House.

MBP reserve the right to pay production costs for the current production and our next production in October 2016, before any charitable distribution takes place.

**The Maiden Bradley Players are supported by Greenlife Plumbing Ltd
and The Visa Office Ltd.**



VILLAGE SHOP COMMITTEE

This is the time of year ago when the Village Shop AGM takes place. This is an advance warning of it being held on 22 March, at 7 pm in the Village Hall.

Although this is over a month away I would like to urge village members, old and new, to consider joining the Village Shop Committee. The Community Shop was set up 13 years ago and was one of the very first Community Shops to be set up. Many have come to us for advice on how to set up their own Community Shop and visitors to Maiden Bradley congratulate us on having such a vibrant shop. The Shop is constituted as a Not for Profit Organisation and under its Constitution it has to be run by a Committee who oversee the running of the shop and ensure good practice. The Shop is run for the benefit of the Community and I think the majority of the Village would agree with this and would be very unhappy to lose it.

We have a strong committee at the moment but all committees benefit from having new faces – fresh blood – on them. Ideas change, ways of marketing, etc. change and we need to be constantly updating the way we do things to keep the shop alive and serving the community in the best possible way.

Do please consider joining the committee. It meets once a quarter, although on occasions more often should anything crop up which needs urgent discussion. If you are interested do please get in touch with me and I can discuss it further with you.

Liz Nixon ernixon66@gmail.com Tel. 844242
www.maidenbradleyvillageshop.org.uk with Facebook link

NEW - Shop website community page - and have your say on the new village forum

A village forum has been created by Nigel Lavender and can be found on the new community page of the Village Shop website.

The direct link is www.maidenbradleyvillageshop.org.uk/forum. It is intended to be used by the entire village and friends of the village for discussions, information, chat etc and has categories including, Church, Shop, Village Hall and Pub. It is hoped that it will be a vibrant forum further enhancing the Maiden Bradley community.

Any suggestions or requests for help getting started please contact Nigel on 844637 or email mbshopfundraising@gmail.com.

Classified ads can now also be posted on the community page of the shop website for a small fee. For further information contact Nigel on the email address above or speak to Amanda in the shop.



The Birth of Iwan - Melanie Collins

Iwan James was born at 5:56pm on Sunday 6th December, weighing 7lb15oz. Christian is an incredibly proud big brother! Iwan was actually born in our living room (as planned!) - we wondered how many other babies had been born in this house, and in this village. We'd love to know of any other Maiden Bradley home births.

I had a really unpleasant experience in hospital when Christian was born in 2012 - he was born with forceps in a room full of people flapping and bright lights. In the three years since his birth, I'd read a lot about home birth and felt that staying at home would be the best thing I could do to avoid a repeat. My plan nearly had to change in September, when I was told I had 'borderline' gestational diabetes; which increased the risk of the baby becoming excessively large and becoming difficult to birth, and of its blood sugar dropping after the birth. However, I monitored my blood sugar at home three times a day and was able to keep it within the target range by being careful with my diet. I noticed that carbohydrates had less of an effect on my blood sugar if I ate them with some protein or fat... So I got through a lot of eggs and nuts! The consultant was never happy for me to have the baby at home, but I felt I was making a

well-informed choice, and my midwife was supportive of me regardless of that choice. So when my waters broke at 4:30am, there was no rushing around to get to hospital - I just stayed downstairs and had some porridge. The midwife I'd seen through my pregnancy initially came to the house, but had to leave as she'd worked all night, and she was replaced by another wonderful midwife from the Frome birthing unit.

I'd had five 1:1 Hypnobirthing sessions during the pregnancy. I'm not particularly good at being calm but with a lot of practice I was able to switch off my internal chatter. The classes weren't really about getting yourself into a trance (or pretending to be a chicken in labour!) but involved a lot of discussion about the processes that happen during birth, and the need to feel secure and calm. We were also taught to use visualisations and to change the way we spoke about things, so I referred to contractions as surges. All of the practice paid off, and I felt completely calm through the entire birth. There was one point towards the end where the baby's heart rate dropped. There was still no second midwife as there had been a lot of other births that day, and our midwife knew that there was a small chance she would need to resuscitate the baby and therefore needed a second person - so Liam had to call 999 and give a reason of 'respiratory distress'. Soon after that, we had four paramedics in the house - luckily three stayed in the kitchen and just one was in the living room. The Hypnobirthing kept me completely focused on myself and the baby and I didn't feel at all concerned.

Unsurprisingly, the baby eventually made his way out. We didn't find out beforehand what 'variety' we were having, and I loved being passed 'my baby' - still the same baby I'd known for the past 9 months and then finding out that this baby was a boy after holding him for a few minutes. We sat on the sofa for a few hours before he was weighed, and once everything was finished and his blood sugar had been checked (it was fine) we went to bed.

Having Iwan at home, calmly and with no drugs, was at the same time incredible and the most powerful thing I'd ever experienced, and something that 'just happened' - I was very aware that I'd done something that billions of other women have done before and it wasn't panicked or shouty or scary. I just wish I'd had Christian at home as well!



Lent

In the Christian calendar, this is a 40 day period of penitence and self-discipline beginning on 'Ash Wednesday' and ending with the service on Holy Saturday which marks the start of Easter. Sundays falling within this period are not counted as part of Lent but as days of normality, or even celebration, notably Mothering Sunday. In medieval times, the rules of fasting were severe on weekdays, meat, milk products, and eggs were all forbidden, and only one meal a day could be eaten: marriages could not be celebrated, and couples were expected to refrain from dancing and entertainment.

After the Reformation observing Lent as a matter of personal piety persisted, in milder forms, in the High Church sections of Anglicanism. The Victorian growth of Anglo-Catholicism, and the influx of Irish immigrants, made the concept very familiar; most people are now aware that 'giving something up for Lent' is appropriate, even if they do not do it themselves.

An extract taken from A Dictionary of English Folklore by Jacqueline Simpson and Steve Roud.

This month's poem....

Biscuits of Love Mindy Carpenter



Memories of my youth.
Flood over my soul.
When I think of Grandma.
They make me feel whole.
Gathering at her house.
With all the family there.
We made lots of memories.
For all of us to share.

Lessons that she taught me.
Guide me thru the day.
If I listened closely.
I cannot go astray.
Love and commitment.
She drilled into me.
Making the person that I am.
Just who I want to be.

Grandma has many names.
Each one has their chosen.
But the names I want her called
Starts with love,
For she is warm and not frozen.

Tomato Soup with Garlic Bread

Ingredients

For the garlic butter

- 1 garlic bulb
- 500ml/18fl oz double cream
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 large bunch basil, roughly chopped, 2 sprigs reserved



For the tomato soup

- 75ml/2½fl oz extra virgin olive oil
- ½ banana shallot, finely chopped
- 2 x 400g/14oz tin San Marzano tomatoes
- 1 small baguette, cut lengthways into 4 pieces



Preparation method

1. Preheat the oven to 170C/340F/Gas 3½
2. Wrap the whole garlic bulb in aluminium foil and place on a tray in the oven. Roast for 40-45 minutes, or until soft.
3. When the garlic is cool enough to handle, cut the top off of the bulb. Squeeze out all the garlic and finely chop.
4. Pour the double cream into the bowl of a freestanding mixer and beat for 3-5 minutes, or until the mixture turns to solid fatty lumps with a liquid base.
5. Line a colander with a clean muslin cloth and place it over a bowl. Tip the mixture into the colander and wrap the muslin tightly around the cream. Squeeze out all the liquid so that you have a solid mass of butter in the muslin, then discard the liquid.
6. Tip the butter into the bowl, add the chopped garlic and a generous pinch of salt. Stir in a third of the chopped basil and mix once more.
7. Heat a large frying pan or sauté pan until hot, add all but two tablespoons of the extra virgin olive oil and the shallot and gently fry for a minute.
8. Add the tinned tomatoes and the rest of the basil, reserving two sprigs for garnish, then simmer for 2-3 minutes.
9. While the soup simmers, heat a griddle pan until very hot and char the bread on both sides, then slather with the garlic butter and place in the oven to warm through.
10. Blend the soup using a stick blender or a food processor until you have a fine purée. Season, to taste, with salt and black pepper.
11. Serve the soup in bowls with the reserved olive oil drizzled over the top and a scattering of basil leaves, and the garlic bread alongside.

Local children join a worldwide celebration.

The children of Whitesheet Primary Academy all played their part in the worldwide traditional celebration of Christingle this week. The Reverend Graham Perryman of St Martin's in Zeals explained to the children the Christian symbolism behind the orange, the red ribbon, the four sticks, sweets and the candle and the importance of the event to Christians the world over.

A special workshop was held in the Whitesheet Primary school hall just prior to the service where the children and parents all assembled their own Christingle. At each stage Reverend Graham explained the symbolism to the children. The children understood that the orange represents the whole world, the candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark, the red ribbon goes all around the 'world', the four sticks represent the four seasons and the fruit (or sometimes sweets!) represent the fruits of the earth. "The children all enjoyed making their own Christingle and even their younger brothers and sisters joined in" said Academy Principal Karen Brooker.

The children each carried their Christingle to St. Martin's Church where together with their parents and staff of Whitesheet Academy they all sang 'Sing Christingle' and 'Shine Jesus Shine'. "The children from year five and six read a poem about Christingle and then Floyd, a year six pupil, read a prayer just before the Christingle were lit for the children. Mrs Brooker said "The children enjoyed the lighting of their Christingle candles and particularly appreciated having their parents attend the worship. It is always a special service and the support of the parents who attended is much appreciated".

"Whitesheet Primary Academy would particularly like to thank Morrisons in Wincanton for the donations of the delicious oranges – which were all thoroughly enjoyed after the service!" said the headteacher afterwards.

For more information please contact Karen Brooker, Whitesheet Church of England Primary Academy, Junior Centre (and Administration Office), Chapel Lane, Zeals, Wiltshire BA12 6NL





CAROL SINGING FOR **DOROTHY HOUSE HOSPICE**

The carol singers raised a record breaking £155. It was lovely to welcome new singers to the group and especially the younger ones. A big thank you to Vera and Peter who 'warmed' us up at the start of our singing and to Victoria and Giles who treated the group to more mulled wine at the end – 2 hours later!

Dorothy House asked me to pass on the following message:

"Please could you pass on our grateful thanks to all those who participated and those who generously donated. It is so heart-warming when people like you take the time to organise gatherings such as this. Every donation we receive makes a difference to people's lives. Your gift means a great deal to the patients and families we look after every year who benefit from our nursing, counselling, complementary therapies, group activities and much more"

Thank you everyone and see you again in December!

Liz Nixon

Jewel Home Care

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting with a couple of interesting and highly experienced and qualified ladies who are Private Carers working in the locality. Jewel (dual) Home Care work as a team or on an individual basis depending on the requirements of the client. Sally Elcombe and Jill Haskell are well known especially in Mere, for their caring ministrations to the sick and elderly, specialising in Dementia and Palliative Care. They are also available for Sitting Services and Respite Care and can be contacted on 01747 861932 or by email

sallyelcombe@hotmail.com

Jewel Home Care

Sally Elcombe and Jill Haskell

Private Carers

NVQ Care C&G Diploma 3 in Dementia

Ncfe Level 3 in Palliative Care

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