

# Maiden Bradley Parish News

368 February 2020



## ROSIE BROWN'S

**BAKED SAUSAGES, APPLES and BLACKBERRIES  
with MUSTARD and MAPLE SYRUP**



## Diary for February

1 Sat	Pop up Pub	Hall	from 5.30pm
2 Sun	Sunday Catchup	Hall	10-11am
3 Mon	Household waste collection		
9 Sun	Matins All Saints' Church		10am
10 Mon	Recycling collections		
11 Tue	Parish Council Meeting	Hall	7pm
14 Fri	Film – Downton Abbey	Hall	7 for 7.30pm
16 Sun	Communion All Saints' Church		10am
17 Mon	Household waste collection		

20 Thurs **Deadline for articles for MBPN**  
**email [pat@visa-office.com](mailto:pat@visa-office.com)**

21 Fri	Quiz Night	Hall	7 for 7.30pm
22 Sat	Cookery Demonstration	Hall	10am-1pm
23 Sun	Parish Communion All Saints' Church		10am
24 Mon	Recycling collections		

## March

28 Sat

**VILLAGE LITTER PICK**



Prayer meeting every Wednesday, venue details 844817 6.30pm  
Dr Harding's Surgery every Monday at the Memorial Hall except Bank Holidays  
5-6 pm. Please bring your orders to Memorial Hall Surgery the week before  
they are due for the Doctor to process.

Refuse & Recycling Collections every Monday, for Bank Holiday changes see  
Wiltshire Council website.

Useful telephone Nos: Memorial Hall bookings – 845303

Dr. Andrew Murrison MP: 01225 358584 or [murrisona@parliament.uk](mailto:murrisona@parliament.uk):

Mere Link Scheme 01747 860096; Rev. Carol Wilson-Barker 01747 861859.

Bell ringing Tuesdays. Beginners welcome - phone 844475

Coffee Mornings every Friday in the Hall 10 am till 12 noon

Maiden Bradley Parish News – contributions are preferred in editable text format.  
Email [pat@visa-office.com](mailto:pat@visa-office.com)

***Magazine available online***  
***at [www.maidenbradleyvillage.org.uk](http://www.maidenbradleyvillage.org.uk)***

## Editorial

The News Team are fortunate to have on board, Sheila Foley, and her role is to fill the slot left by Meg, namely family and village news. Perhaps you are new to the village or are celebrating a special anniversary and would like to be featured along with a photo, then please get in touch.

I am very pleased that Rosie Brown's first cookery demonstration was such a success and that there will be another one this month, see inside.

Following receipt of positive feedback regarding the December edition of the Maiden Bradley News, we have decided to print in full colour, as funds will allow. You might also like the new format we are trialling this month.

Pat Kennedy 845397 [pat@visa-office.com](mailto:pat@visa-office.com)



### Community litter pick

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

10.00-12.00

Meet at the village hall car park

Equipment provided



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## NEWS FROM THE HALL

Christmas and New Year festivities are out of the way once more. We continue to hold events and social evenings and would love to see more people. You are assured of a warm welcome!

Coming up in February there is another of the very popular film nights; Friday 14th "Downton Abbey" - not to be missed. There's great excitement in the Grantham household when a royal visit is planned. 7pm for 7.30.



The following Friday on the 21st there will be a "Quiz Night". Teams of up to 6 people. £3 per person. Cash prizes. Some refreshments available. Raffle. A fun evening and give your brain a workout! 7pm for 7.30.

Regarding the new chairs, all donations gratefully received. Some very generous ones have been made already but more needed. £20 per chair, however any contribution would be fantastic - £5 a leg!

Now on a more serious note, The Old Kitchen Store is struggling somewhat, and I would urge more people to use it. We would be very sad if it goes the same way as the old village shop and to show our appreciation to all the volunteers who run it, we should pop in there if possible and help keep it going.

There has been some feedback about extending the opening times e.g. Saturday morning or maybe an evening. This is all well and good but for this to happen more manpower would be needed. We hope to see you soon!

Very best wishes,

**Pam Thomlinson**

## Parish Plan update

Thanks to everyone who came to our volunteer day! Approximately 21 people offered their help for various parish plan activities, including new residents in the village.

Cllr Ian Ferguson is coordinating the volunteer groups on behalf of the parish council, so please contact him if you want to get involved. It is never too late!

In January and February, Ian will be bringing the different volunteers together to discuss and come up with proposals for their particular activity. These proposals will then come back to the parish council for further discussion, sign-off and where feasible, budgetary support.

As work progresses, you'll find notices by volunteers about the particular activities in the parish newsletter, parish council website, village website, village noticeboards and village Facebook group.

There is always room for more help if you are interested in getting involved in any of the following:

**Speed Watch** – join a team monitoring traffic speed (about once every 2 weeks)

**Weightwatchers (traffic)** – support advocacy efforts to enforce the weight limit

**Village hall** – helping to organise events in the hall

**Village shop** – serving in the shop

**Newsletter** – writing articles for the newsletter

**Annual litter pick** – help spring clean the village on Saturday 28 March 2020

**Noticeboard** – creating notices about events etc. for the noticeboard

**Annual summer fair** – organising a summer fete in the village

**Bonfire night** – organising a village event to mark November 5th

**Footpath maintenance** – set up and participate in a path maintenance group

**Mobile phone** – researching options to improve coverage

**Recreation ground** – researching options for improvements e.g. outdoor gym

**Environmental activities** – coordinating climate change activities in the village

**Map of the village** – preparing a map of footpaths and historic sites

**Conservation** – researching photos and maps of the historic village to share on the website/or in a display in the village hall

**Cycling activities** – coordinating cycling activities and ideas

**Under-18s advisory group** – collaborating to integrate young people's ideas in all village activities

For further information, contact:

Cllr Ian Ferguson [ianferguson59@gmail.com](mailto:ianferguson59@gmail.com)

or Cllr Alex Channer [adrchanner@gmail.com](mailto:adrchanner@gmail.com)

## A Cottage for a Candle

Look behind our church door and you will see the top of a 13th c. stone sarcophagus; on it are carved the symbols of a crescent moon and the sun in splendour, they are the arms of the de Aungens family. This lid is from one of several coffins found beneath the Lady Chapel when it was rebuilt in 1894. When the east wall of the north aisle was pulled down under the limewash was found a typical medieval wall painting showing the same arms; the vicar's wife carefully copied it and her work can be seen hung by the entrance to the side chapel. In the centre of the wall painting was a large cross and either side of it groups of men and women; an arch above them was formed by writing which is now impossible to decipher. Two niches can be seen in the wall beneath the picture and their size was noted. These niches might once have held the images of saints; probably one of them was Mary as the chapel has always been known as the 'Lady Chapel'. The positioning of the wall painting suggests that there was once an altar by the east wall of the chapel and that it was a chantry where prayers were said for the dead.

The de Aungens family lived in Maiden Bradley from about 1200-1440, their grand house, long since demolished, was named 'Vauxhall' (or Foxhulle) and was above Kates Bench Farm.

At Michaelmas 1328, the start of a new business year, Jordan de Aungens was given a cottage and gardens at La Combessende in Maiden Bradley by his brother-in-law, Sir William de Sutton, on condition that each year at the Feast of the Presentation he gave a candle weighing two pounds to be lit in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary at All Saints Maiden Bradley for Sir William, his wife Joan, and in memory of Joan and Jordan's parents, John and Sibella, and their ancestors. The Feast of the Presentation was known as 'Candlemas' and was on February 2nd. It is forty days after Christmas and marks the day when Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to present him at the temple. There they were met by an old man, Simeon, who had been told by God that he wouldn't die until he saw the Messiah. Simeon took the baby in his arms and said, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation,.....a light for revelation to the Gentiles"

The lit candles were a reminder of Christ the light of the world and the hope of all who trust in him.

Much of All Saints Church was rebuilt in the 14th c. and it is possible that the characteristic corbel stones that can be seen in the church represent members of the de Aungens family who were the most important family in Maiden Bradley at the time.



## More bats.....

Following the results of our summer bat survey by the Bat Conservation Trust, they came back at Christmas and it was interesting to discover that there are serotin, brown long eared bats, and greater and lesser horseshoe bats living in the church. None of them are common species and the horseshoe bats are becoming scarce.

**Celia Blay**



# FOR SALE

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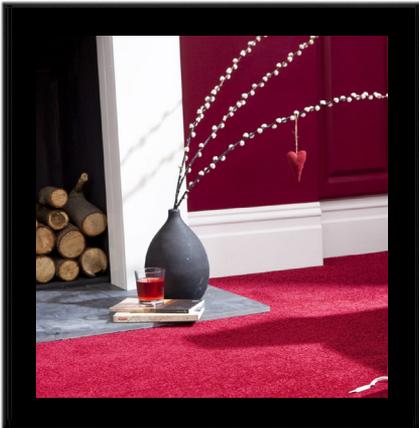
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860096**

**LINK SCHEMES** are community-based, volunteer run charities based predominantly in Wiltshire which aim to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged, elderly or infirm people by providing transport and 'good neighbour' services.

Link schemes help to keep local communities connected to vital services, by connecting volunteer drivers (using their own cars), with passengers who have limited access to transport. Depending on volunteer availability, this can involve taking someone to a medical appointment, taking them shopping or providing 'good neighbour' services like prescription collection.

A donation is requested from passengers using Link volunteer cars to support the cost of running the service. Each Link scheme is run by a group of local volunteers managed by a local Link Co-ordinator. People wishing to use the service, simply call their local co-ordinator who will endeavour to arrange for a volunteer to carry out the task.

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Telephone: 01747 840496

The Old Police House  
Stourton, BA12 6QG.

**COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWS**  
**Police Community Volunteers working on behalf of**  
**the Wiltshire Police and Maiden Bradley**



Welcome to Community Speed Watch News, compiled and produced by the Maiden Bradley Community Speed Watch Volunteers to keep the village aware of our activities.

As always thank you to all the teams that have carried Community Speed Watch duties to date

The Speed Watch Teams have not been active because of the Christmas period short daylight hours and the inclement weather this month. However we will be out and from the 22nd January 2020 weather and light permitting.

Just to remind you here are the figures for December as shown in last months report.

2nd December 08:00 to 09:00hrs 235 vehicles noted and 1 vehicle registered speeding

10th December 08:00 to 09:00hrs 270 vehicles noted and 2 vehicles registered speeding

18th December 08:00 to 09:00hrs 291 vehicles noted and 9 vehicles registered as speeding

However on the 18th December a traffic incident did take place in the village at around 10:30 / 10:45hrs between two cars. The matter started at the Mere end of the village traffic calming with lots of hooting and shouting, followed by two vehicles, a Black SUV and a Blue BMW speeding through the village well in excess of 50mph one still hooting. Coming to a stand by the Knapp/ Horse Trough and bringing all the traffic to a stand. Fortunately an HGV was able to block the road to avoid other vehicles running into the cars that were stopped basically blocking the road. The two drivers were out of their vehicles. Until forced to move by other traffic. Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information please make the information known to the police. As their actions could have lead to a serious incident if it had not been for the actions of one of the HGV drivers.

Communityspeedwatch Wiltshire PNN

Our Administration Officer, Claudia, has been successful in acquiring another role in force. We wish Claudia every success in her new role although will miss her much valued support Unfortunately Roger is on long term sick this leaves a gap in the co-ordinator role that Roger performs. In furtherance we are seeking an internal resource to support this role, through our resource management panel.

As always we still need more volunteers to help with this important duty, so if you would like to join the team just call me on 01985 844848 and start the process of being a Community Speed Watch Volunteer.

*Simon Wager*

**Simon Wager. Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator.**  
**Vice Chairman Maiden Bradley Parish Council**

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### The Farming Year at Priory Farm

2019 has been a very traumatic year as we have been battling TB in our herd since August 2018. We eventually cleared the infection in August and managed to sell about 30 cattle at the same price as they would have made the previous October so we fed them for twelve months for no financial return as the average finished beef cattle price had fallen by 30p per kilo.

We had a pre-movement TB test of five animals in mid-December one of which failed and was taken for slaughter, ten days later we had a complete herd test which was clear. We then heard from DEFRA that the one reactor had TB and therefore we had to have all the herd blood tested. On Christmas Eve we had notification that eleven animals had failed the test, so they were going to be taken for slaughter.

All in all, not a good year for farming beef, having lost over twenty and selling about only thirty instead of sixty to seventy cattle.

On the cropping side, Barley yields were above average resulting in a price drop of £40-£50 per tonne which means on a 3 tonne to acre yield, £120 an acre drop with input cost not dropping and farm rents on the increase, not a good time especially with the uncertainty of BREXIT.

Since September we have had incessant rain resulting in only 10-15 percent of autumn planting done, which means wheat will be in very short supply next harvest which indicates a lot more wheat will need to be imported. Therefore at the moment British agriculture is in limbo.

**Derek Stevens**



## Notes from the Warminster Community Area Climate Forum

at the Civic Centre in Warminster 9/1/20

It was encouraging to see a crowd of enthusiastic participants keen to share ideas about actions to manage climate change here & now as individuals, households and businesses.

Councillor Tracey Carter began with a presentation about WCC's actions; to summarize:

- Appoint a task force to develop a strategy to achieve the county and the council buildings to be carbon neutral by 2030
- Review the local and transport plans
- Adopt a new air quality strategy setting emission reduction targets & create a baseline to allow progress monitoring
- £5.2 million allocated for energy generating measures on council buildings & land
- £3.5 million allocated to create solar panel canopies over car parks
- £12 million allocated to switch street lighting to LED
- Waste and recycling has increased from 16% in 2008/9 to 56% in 2018/19 [however when I asked about where and how the recycling was done there was no clear or satisfactory answer so I am not convinced our plastics are not being shipped abroad. I will investigate this further.]
- Friends of the Earth have stated that Wiltshire CC were the best performing Local Authority in England/Wales...
- Wiltshire CC have a green pledge (<https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=157261245291>) that can be filled in anonymously [and which in my view does not go far enough but is a start.]

At the round table session that followed ideas were collected for local actions. This was collated into the list (below) edited to show ideas relevant to us as a village.

Nigel Linge spoke about the significant achievements of a volunteer group of litter pickers. He suggested that we need to take individual responsibility for these kinds of issues, reclaim ownership and take pride in our surroundings rather than leaving everything to 'cash strapped' councils.

Simon Taylor from the relatively new group called Sustainable Warminster spoke last and encouraged people to join the group. SW have organized a talk with Chris Goodall on 7th Feb (see poster) in Warminster.

The public part of the evening ended with vegan food from a local Indian restaurant.

I will select ideas from the list below to feature in coming months for this item, meanwhile as ever if you have ideas or want to co-ordinate environmental issues please contact Kate Moore on [katemoore@silkmillstudios.co.uk](mailto:katemoore@silkmillstudios.co.uk)

## Edited (to be Maiden Bradley friendly) list of suggestions:

- **Grow more food**
- Wildlife friendly gardens
- **Minimise food waste**
- Save water (fewer showers / less car cleaning) make use of grey water
  - **Turn down the thermostat**
  - Encourage home / community composting / wormeries
  - **Use refillable bottles for milk / cleaning products**
    - Choose to buy loose without packaging
  - **Take your own containers to butchers etc**
    - Take your own shopping bags
  - **No mow May (and mow less generally)**
    - Plant wildflowers
  - **Raise awareness at the cost of digital / online use**
    - Fly less and offset
- **Car share eg Bla Bla Car**
- Volunteer litter picker / monitor on each street
  - **Use loose tea**
- Freecycle rather than dispose of things that have use left in them,
- **Plogging / jogging with litter picker**
- Share knowledge and equipment
- **Water saving devices / water butts**
- Energy saving inside - doors closed / lights off
- **Recycling / reusing**
- Keep chickens
- **Create ponds**
- Leave piles of leaves
- **Co-ordination of deliveries - eg oil**
- LED bulbs

# WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW

FOR A ZERO CARBON FUTURE

AN INSPIRATIONAL TALK

by

energy & climate change author & economist

# CHRIS GOODALL

Friday 7th February

7.30pm

Warminster Civic Centre  
Sambourne Road BA12 8LB

**Tickets £5** available from Eventbrite  
[chris-goodall-sustwarm.eventbrite.co.uk](http://chris-goodall-sustwarm.eventbrite.co.uk)

Chris will have copies of his new book available to sign & buy  
There will also be wine & soft drinks on sale

**SUSTAINABLE  
WARMINSTER**

## Parish Council January 2020

**Co-option-** Council witness the signing of the Acceptance of Office by the newly Co-opted Councillor Ray Kenzie. The Vice Chairman welcomed him to the Council Team.

**Planning- Application** Ref: 19/11940/TCA Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area Proposal: - 2 x Beech trees - fell 6 x Sycamore trees – fell 1 x Sycamore tree - coppice to lower height 2 x Ash tree – fell At: 90 Frome Road, Maiden Bradley, BA12 7JA Resolved: Supported

**Litter Pick Date** - 28th March 2020 will take place from the Village Hall at 10.00am. Councillor Alexandra Channer has agreed to be the lead Councillor. Parishioners are asked to note the date in their diaries and contact Councillor Alexandra Channer if they have specific areas, they wish to target outside of the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 litter pick date.

### Highways

Parishioners are asked that if they see any highways issue to report it as soon as possible to Wiltshire

Council the Authority that deals with Highways Issues:

The Wiltshire Council app can be used to report any Highways issues from your mobile phone or online at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwaysstreetcare/mywiltshirelogin.htm>

Or by phone at Highways 0300 456 0105



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**Precept Figure** – The Parish Council has set the precept figure at £24,234.36; the Parish Council is assuming a total carry over of funds of £6112.47. The increase would be £4.92 per month for 10 months for a Band D property. This will enable the Parish Council to put back into the Risk & Contingencies budget the monies spent on the Church Street improvements actioned last year that were not budgeted for within last year's Precept budget. Action the High Street proposals following the Petition received from Parishioners and action several items highlighted in the Parish Plan by Parishioners.

**Notice of items to be taken into consideration at the next meeting in February 2020.**

Parish Plan, Village Fair Volunteer meeting, Policy updating, Register of Interests update and PAT Testing.

**Date of the next meeting-** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 is the date of the next Parish Council meeting. All are welcome to attend.

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 [www.maidenbradley.org.uk](http://www.maidenbradley.org.uk) can be accessed to read a copy of the Agenda and minutes electronically or copies are displayed on the Community Notice Board at the Bus Stop. If you have access to Facebook, there is a Parish Council Facebook page do sign up and join the Community Information Board.

**Sarah Jeffries the Clerk can be contacted by email: [maidenbradley@virginmedia.com](mailto:maidenbradley@virginmedia.com) or phone: 01985 213436 or by mail to Maiden Bradley Parish Clerk 9 Beech Grove Warminster BA12 0AB**



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- *1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Fix Plumbing Works – New Build, Extensions*
- *Bathroom Refurbishment, New Bathroom Projects*



## MAIDEN BRADLEY CYCLING

Following on from suggestions made in preparation of the recent Parish Plan, I have been requested to coordinate activities and ideas for cycling in the village. As I believe we live in the highest village in the county, almost on top of a hill, promoting cycling may not be an easy task but I do not propose to try and convert you all into a lycra clad group or club, but merely to encourage consideration of cycling as a rewarding leisure(ly) activity.

Most of you are probably aware that our village sits on National Cycle Route 25 (blue sign and stickers), as evidenced by hordes of passing chattering cyclists! Although this route runs from Longleat to Bournemouth, one of the best parts is that from Maiden Bradley to Stourhead and although not completely flat it does not have the same long steep hills as other routes from the village.

Several villagers have indicated that they may be interested in a ride to Stourhead and I and (or) my wife Carol would be very pleased to organise and accompany a group if required.

Other cycle routes from the village are equally pleasant, such as the lanes to the Deverills or Longleat, although the hill on the latter route can be a bit daunting (but walkable). Inexperienced cyclists should not be deterred from using our quiet lanes as any worries about the occasional passing car can be avoided by simply stopping and waiting at the side of the road. If you wish to gain confidence before venturing further afield, simply riding around the village via Back Lane is well worthwhile (and walking along the main road if necessary).

Apart from cycling in and around the village, there are several excellent off road, traffic free, surfaced cycle routes within easy reach such as the paths on disused railway lines at Sturminster Newton, Great Elm and

### Elizabeth Gittoes

Registered  
Osteopath



Consultation by prior  
arrangement. Please  
call Elizabeth to make  
an appointment.

Email: [lizgittoes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lizgittoes@yahoo.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01747 840496

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Bath together with the excellent cycle path along the canal towpath from Bath to Bradford on Avon and beyond. Unfortunately these routes will often require the use of car bike racks but these can be a well worthwhile investment. Alternatively, bike hire is often available nearby.

Slightly further afield we are blessed in the southwest with several excellent traffic free cycle paths in West Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and for any adventurous souls wishing to travel even further I would highly recommend the facilities and cycle routes in Europe which unfortunately are largely far superior to those in our country. These trips can often be undertaken as fully supported holidays with bicycles provided and luggage transported.

Unfortunately, cycling to school is not really feasible for our village children but if any youngsters would like to try the fun of cycling as a group I could probably help to get you started.

If anyone is interested in the above suggestions and would like further information, or has any other ideas for promoting cycling, I would be very pleased to help (we even have a spare ladies bike).

Finally, if worries about fitness deter you from trying cycling, don't discount the possibility of increasingly popular electric assisted bikes which are rapidly coming down in price, Carol has recently acquired one and is so pleased with it wishes she had done so years ago – although she is becoming tired of continually waiting for me to catch up!

**Ray (or Carol) Kenzie**  
844745 ray.kenzie@gmail.com



## **Walking On Air Footcare**

**Visiting Foot Health Professional**  
**MCFHP MAFHP**

Providing treatment and advice  
to keep you mobile

**Friday Clinic held at**  
**Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall**

*For an appointment phone Jean:*

**0793 4495518**



# ROSIE BROWN'S BAKED SAUSAGES, APPLES, BLACKBERRIES WITH MUSTARD & MAPLE SYRUP

SERVES 4

## INGREDIENTS

8 good quality pork sausages  
2 eating apples, halved and cored (not peeled)  
2 medium onions, peeled, cut into 6-8 wedges  
2 sprigs of rosemary  
3½tbs Maple syrup

1½ tbs Dijon mustard  
2 tbs extra virgin olive oil  
2 garlic cloves  
Sea salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper  
150ml chicken stock  
125g blackberries  
Mashed or baked potatoes to serve

## METHOD

Preheat oven to 190 C or gas mark 6.

In a small bowl, stir together the Maple syrup, mustard, 1 tbs olive oil, garlic & season. Leave on one side.

Heat remaining tablespoon of olive oil in roasting tin or flame-proof dish and brown the sausages. Put in oven to keep hot.

Toss the apples and onions in Maple syrup mixture and place in roasting tin.

Add the sausages and bake for 40-45 minutes, turning over the sausages once. They should be dark and glossy, onions & apples soft.

Remove from oven and place over a medium heat, pouring in the chicken stock.

Bring to the boil, stirring to mix in the stock.

Add the blackberries, heat through, but don't stir.

Serve with mashed or baked potatoes.

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## **ROSIE'S CLEMENTINE OR ORANGE AND SHERRY SYLLABUB**

**SERVES 4**



### **INGREDIENTS**

**4tbsl caster sugar**

**2-3tbsl sweet or dry sherry (or omit if serving to children)**

**2 clementines, juice & zest of both OR  
1 large orange, juice & zest**

**280mls double cream**

**25g grated chocolate or zest of orange  
or clementine**

**4 wide rimmed glasses**

### **METHOD**

Grate the zest from both clementines or orange.

Cut in half and squeeze out the juice.

Dissolve the sugar in the juice and add zest in a small bowl.

Add sherry.

Whip the cream until it is thick.

Stir in the sugary liquid.

Pour into 4 glasses and chill for at least 2 hours.

Serve with a sprinkling of grated chocolate or grated zest of orange on top of each syllabub.



## **Cookery Demonstration**

On Saturday 22nd February, Rosie Brown is holding a cooking demonstration from 10am to 1pm in the memorial hall.

The menu will be: Smoke Mackerel Pate, Chicken with prunes, cauliflower, potatoes and Harissa, Lemon pots and Pancakes with orange sauce.

Please contact Rosie on: 01985 844236 if are interested in coming.

£3 for adults and £1 for children.

All are welcome.

## My Winter Watch in The Rank - Jan 2020

Well it has been very wet and today the sun rose at 08:04 and will set again 16:36 just about 8 hours of daylight and with the rain and persistent cloud, not a lot of time for the birds to forage for food. Therefore our bird feeders have been doing good trade. More often than not, the greatest activity is later in the afternoon. Regular visitors are sparrows but few tree sparrows and house sparrows fly down in abundance. Chaffinches, two regular pairs visiting together with the Blue Tits, Great Tits, Coal Tits and Marsh Tit and this morning the group of Long Tailed Tits 10 in number arrived to scoff peanuts. Gold Finches plunder the nyjer seed and it is common to see 4 pairs arriving together making a very cheery sight with their red clown like faces. Mustn't forget our Wrens these little birds sing from our hedges and bushes and are always busy searching out bugs.

No Song Thrushes, however plenty of Black Birds and I guess a good number of them are incoming migrants. Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December saw a very large flock of Field Fares and Redwings fly in and much of the berries on the Holly disappeared overnight. They stayed around for a few days breaking up into smaller and smaller groups and have since largely disappeared. I have seen more starlings this winter than last but the huge numbers of 30 years ago are now just a memory. It seems the

Bull Finches have discovered something worth eating in the hedgerows of Bradley Lane, a group of six, three pairs, dashing in and out of the high hedges. We had expected to lose our Greater Spotted Wood peckers with the loss of tree cover. However, both the male and female visit our remote peanut feeder and they do like peanuts and they do like cover, its seems the Ash at the bottom of the garden provides cover enough. What about the owls? Tawny Owls tell one another about their house hunting and when we hear the call Woo Terwit Woo it's the female calling first "woo woo" telling the male "I have found a nesting place" and the male replying "terwit terwit" so there are two birds making the call. Earlier in late November we

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## House and Garden Maintenance

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Ben Ellis  
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thehonbellis@hotmail.com

counted five individual calls well dispersed but it seems our Owl population is locally quite strong with little owls around and a Barn Owl spotted over the Rec in the late autumn, quartering the area for prey.



The Red Kites have made a welcome return with a pair and their family around, seeking carrion. Buzzards too, are back in fashion and a Kestrel hovering in search of a tasty vole just nearby and visible for at least an hour from Bradley Lane and the junction of Green Lane that goes over to Kates Bench. Mustn't forget the Ravens, they have popped up a couple of times and notable from the rather strange call likened to a Crow with a sore throat.

Lastly a pair of Hare quite mature in size. Muntjac deer have been seen as well as Roe Deer. We have now set up an outdoor camera in the copse at the end of the garden to try to monitor small wild life activity, particularly Doormice, Hedgehogs etc. and the passing pheasant and partridge.

Hedgehogs have gone to bed now let's hope they are fat enough to survive the winter.

James Kennedy



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# Easy pancakes

**PREP: 10 MINS COOK: 20 MINS PLUS OPTIONAL STANDING**

**MAKES 12**

Learn a skill for life with our foolproof crêpe recipe that ensures perfect pancakes every time - elaborate flip optional

- Freezable
- Healthy

Nutrition: per pancake

- kcal61 fat2g saturates1g carbs7g sugars1g fibre0g protein3g salt0.1g

Ingredients

- 100g plain flour
- 2 large eggs
- 300ml milk
- 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil, plus a little extra for frying
- lemon wedges, to serve (optional)
- caster sugar, to serve (optional)

Method

- Put 100g plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk, 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil and a pinch of salt into a bowl or large jug, then whisk to a smooth batter.
- Set aside for 30 mins to rest if you have time, or start cooking straight away.
- Set a medium frying pan or crêpe pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper.
- When hot, cook your pancakes for 1 min on each side until golden, keeping them warm in a low oven as you go.
- Serve with lemon wedges and caster sugar, or your favourite filling. Once cold, you can layer the pancakes between baking parchment, then wrap in cling film and freeze for up to 2 months.



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## **WALKING ON AIR FOOTCARE**

It is with regret that we announce that this service will no longer be available as from 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Our thanks go to Jean Milverton for the care & attention she has given to many of Maiden Bradley villagers over the years. She is, however, continuing to practice from her own home and can be contacted on 07934495518.

The Hall committee is currently organising a replacement to keep a Footcare Clinic going in the Hall.

### *RUMOURS:*

Please note that the Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall committee are NOT increasing Hall rental and hiring fees this year.

**Please also note that our weekly coffee mornings are continuing throughout 2020 and beyond!**

*Sheila Foley*

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## monthly events

We host special monthly events on the third Friday of every month. See our website events page for details.

**Pre-booking recommended**

## steak night

Join us on the first Friday of each month for our popular Steak Night! Vegetarian option available.

**Pre-booking required**

## afternoon tea

Enjoy an exquisite afternoon tea, featuring a range of sandwiches, scones and cakes.

£20 per person.

Add a glass of bubbly for £5.

**Pre-booking required**

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**BOOK CLUB**

**Our friendly club meets at 8.pm, monthly, except in August. Each month, a different club member hosts the meeting in their home where we enjoy light refreshments, a good chat and a chance to air our thoughts about the book we read in the preceding month. It is fun, relaxed and welcoming to anyone who enjoys reading and would like to join us.**

**For more information and the year's list of meeting dates, please contact Jessica Johnson:**

**Phone: 07515 286429 or 01985 844 174**

**Email: [jessica07johnson@gmail.com](mailto:jessica07johnson@gmail.com)**