

ISSUE 404

155UE 404				
1	Wed	DIARY FEBRUARY 2023 Household waste collection		
5	Sun	Catch up in the Hall 10-11am		
6	Mon	Green recycling		
8	Wed	Blue bin and black box recycling		
10	Fri	Illustrated talk by Prof. Geoff Till on		
		The Ukraine/Russia conflict		
12	Sun	Morning Worship led by Celia Blay 10am		
14	Tue	Valentine's Day at the Bradley Hare		
15	Wed	Household waste collection		
17 doors	Fri	Film Night "The New Railway Children" VILLAGE		
		Open 6 for 6.30pm start		
19	Sun	Morning Worship led by Jane Hurd 10am		
20	Mon	Green recycling		
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER COPY - to pat@visa-office.com				
21	Tue	Pancake Day at The Hare		



26 Sun Holy Communion with Rev Stella Wood 10am MARCH

3 & 4 F&S THE 'TEMPORARY MEASURE ' POP-UP PUB AT THE HALL

Blue bin and black box recycling

White Horse Opera Group – Ruddigore by

Gilbert & Sullivan

22

25

Wed

Sat

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Speed Watch Co-ordinator	Simon Wager simon.m.wager@gmail.com		
Nadder Oil Buying Club	Email: richard.willan@me.com www.oilbuyingclub.com		
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Derek Stevens	01985 844428	
Community Garden	Sam Ribeck sam.ribeck@	btinternet.com	
Book Club	Jessica Johnson	01985 844174	
Cookery Demonstrations	Rosie Brown	01985 844236	
Luncheon Club		01985 844779	
Welcome Club Outings		01985 844779	
Scrabble Club		01985 844919	
Memorial Hall bookings		01985 845303	
Dr Andrew Murrison MP	murrisona@parliament.uk	01225 358584	
Mere Link Scheme		01747 860096	
Bell Ringing Tuesday 7.30pm in the Church Bell Tower - beginners welcome 01985 8453			
Church contact	Diana Green 01985 844500		
Environmental issues	greenermaidenbradley@gmail.com		

Contributions for the newsletter are always welcome.

Please email pat@visa-office.com by 20th of the month Magazine available online on the village website: WWW.MAIDENBRADLEYVILLAGE.ORG.UK

EDITORIAL

Today's penetrating cold has left a crisp, white blanket over our garden that the sun could not shift on this otherwise sunny and now foggy day causing slippery conditions on the path to the shed or down to the front gate. Our dog Bertie, happy to go out, is even happier to turn around after a short walk and if we take him around the village, he races on a route march to get back to his cosy home. Without the benefit of gas in the village, oil is an option for heating the home and in this month's News there is an ad for the Oil purchasing scheme which should make purchases cheaper, probably worth checking it out if you are not already a member of the group.

On Saturday 21st January, Maiden Bradley was one of the bell ringing towers featured in the "ring" for Ukraine on the Points West news programme on BBC1. Earlier in the morning, James Kennedy was featured on Wiltshire radio talking about the ring and the need for more and some younger, bell ringers. So if you would like to give it a try, we ring on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm.

Patricia Kennedy 845397 pat@visa-office.com

FAMILY NEWS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to two new young families to Maiden Bradley. Bella, Rory, Ralph and Kit who have moved into Manor Farm and Kriss, Polly, George and Archie who have moved into Pearl's home.

George (3) and Archie (2months) have already enjoyed the Bradley Babes 'club' as well as Friday Coffee Morning with their mum. They moved from Melksham and have spent 5 years in Australia. Polly and Kriss run "Strength for Endurance", coaching for endurance athletes.

Belated, but heartfelt congratulations to
Sebastian and Poppy
on their recent engagement
with their wedding to be held later in the year.





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WHITE HORSE OPERA **KUDDIGOKE**



The Witch's

Curse

Бу

Gilbert & Sullivan

MAIDEN BRADLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Sat 25th March 7.30pm

Tickets £10 from Devizes Books &

www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera
Tickets can be purchased on the door subject to availability
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1194308

Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall 01985 845303 (answerphone)

Winter events coming up....

Sunday 5th February – 10-11 Sunday Catch-up Coffee Morning

Friday 10th February

Illustrated talk by Prof. Geoff Till the Ukraine / Russia conflict. Licensed bar. All funds raised to support All Saints Church. Tickets £12.50 from Eventbrite or Pat 845397

'The New Railway Children'
Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30 start

suitable for all the family

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS 10.00AM-11.00AM

Yoga (new time)

MONDAYS 5.00PM-6.00PM

Dr's Surgery

TUESDAY 11AM-MIDDAY

Bradley Babies

TUESDAY 1.00PM-3.00PM

Post Office Service

WEDNESDAYS 6.15PM-7.15PM

Yoga Flow

FRIDAYS 10AM-12PM

Coffee Morning

Book library available during hall opening Friday mornings

01985 845303 (answerphone) www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk



Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th March both evenings

"THE TEMPORARY MEASURE' - Pub night and games

Saturday 25th March

A performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's Ruddigore by The White Horse Opera Group Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £10.00 available from Devizes Books or www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera

Coming SoonCrazy Pony - A night of music, acrobatics, comedey and circus!

Watch this space.......



AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY

PROFESSOR GEOFF TILL

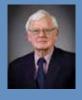
Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall Friday February 10th at 7.30pm

Doors open at 7pm - bar and nibbles available
Tickets £12.50
online from eventbrite or 01985 845397

All proceeds will go to The Friends of All Saints Church

GEOFF TILL IS A BRITISH NAVAL HISTORIAN AND EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF MARITIME STUDIES IN THE DEFENCE STUDIES DEPARTMENT OF KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

HE CURRENTLY HOLDS THE DUDLEY KNOX CHAIR IN NAVAL HISTORY AND STRATEGY AT THE US NAVAL WAR COLLEGE



Nadder Oil Buying Club

A greener and cheaper way of buying heating oil while we are still so very dependent on it in rural locations!

The Nadder Oil Buying Club (named for the River Nadder that runs through the area) has been in existence for over ten years and now has in excess of 1100 members buying around 1.5M litres of heating oil a year in the Salisbury and Shaftesbury area. So, what's the point? Why not just keep ringing your normal supplier and accepting their quoted price? Well to start with you achieve much better prices being part of a group order of between 60,000 and 200,000 litres per month. On average the club is 10% cheaper per litre than can be achieved by calling a supplier direct.

However, there are other significant environmental benefits. The tight geographical area allows suppliers to plan very economical delivery trips which saves money and fuel as well as subjecting us to far fewer polluting truck trips. The regular email reminders enable members to monitor their tank levels, so helping prevent more polluting emergency deliveries.

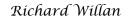
The period since March 2022 when Russia attacked Ukraine has seen some extraordinarily fluctuations in the price of heating oil, (aka kerosene). I am pleased to say that a recent mid January 2023 quotation has seen prices returning to much nearer the pre March 2022 level at 77.30ppl + 5% VAT

The system is run by email and more information about the club can be found on www. nadder.oilbuyingclub.com. The way it works is as follows

- Twice a month you will receive an invitation to order which is then aggregated with other members who are in need of oil.
- After 10 days or so we close the order collection process and ask the suppliers to bid.
 The cheapest bidder gets the business always assuming their service is good.
- In the following fortnight, the orders are delivered.
- Payment is usually seven days from receipt of invoice. Occasionally a supplier will
 require an up front payment for the first delivery. You always pay the supplier direct.

Many members have been nervous about placing an order without knowing the price in advance. This is because we do not know the price until the suppliers have completed the bidding process. As a result, we always undertake to cancel your order if, within twenty four hours of receiving the email confirmation of supplier and price, you find you can buy better elsewhere.

Joining costs nothing and you are not obliged to order, but you will be able to then see the previous prices achieved by the club If you would like answers to any questions just email me at Richard.willan@me.com





Many thanks to Richard for this and while we of course all need to be working towards breaking our structural dependance on fossil fuels we have to acknowledge that our options in the village are limited.

Many of us live in rented accommodation making the prospect of investing in environmentally friendly alternative technologies several steps further away compared to those who own their own houses. So we need to minimise the impact of oil deliveries whilst also continually reducing the amounts of energy we use by insulating our houses as much as possible and rationalising the way that we organise our occupation of spaces. Boilers should be serviced & radiators bled regularly and that they are as efficient as possible. Savings of oil consumption and therefore CO2 emissions (as well as money) can be made by turning down the temperature of your boiler & and hot water by a degree. You probably won't notice this in the house but it will make a difference in other important ways. If any of your pipes are not insulated (especially if your boiler is in a draughty porch or outer area of your house) you will be losing heat between the boiler and the room where you need the heat.

We hope to meet soon to chat about things we can all do to make a difference so watch this space for a date in next month's Maiden Bradley News!



Ten Tiny Plays

In October last year I put pen to paper (well, Microsoft Word) to write a short play for the Ten Tiny Plays 2023 competition, launched by BBC Radio Wiltshire and Swindon-based Prime Theatre. I was delighted when my first attempt at writing a radio play was selected!

My two minute play, The Small Leveller, is set in Maiden Bradley's Community Garden and is a gentle observation of two different lives that just so happen to end up in the Community Garden one Spring day - with a little twist in the tale!

Your can hear the play on Twitter (@PrimeTheatreUK) or the play and the interview I did with BBC Radio Wiltshire's afternoon presenter, Graham Rogers, on BBC Sounds on Thursday 12 January around 37.40 minutes into the programme.

I had great fun writing it - hope you enjoy listening to it!

Sarah Ward









CHRISTMAS WITH LUNCHEON CLUB & WELCOME CLUB MEMBERS

Our Christmas meal at Hunters Lodge this year was a great success. We had a joint party with the members, cooks and helpers from Luncheon Club and members from Welcome Club. Unfortunately due to illness several people could not attend but 57 of us sat down to an excellent lunch in very festive surroundings. Tom had organised a Christmas raffle and everyone had a jolly time.



Luncheon Club reopened on 5th January and will continue each Thursday until the Easter break on 30th March. With the extra cooks and helpers we hope this will lighten the load for the cooks and give members a greater variety of meals.

We will be keeping the meal price at £3.50 for this term and will reassess a possible increase in the light of the spiralling cost of ingredients, before we return in April.

On a sad note we lost one of our oldest members just before Christmas. Gerald Newbury was a member for many years with his wife Myrtle. Even though he had not been able to join us for some time due to illness he had still enjoyed one of our lunches each week taken to him by his daughter. Our condolences are sent to Gerald's family.

Lesley & Margaret

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1

Moving home always does one very positive thing. It brings back memories of one's youth.

In sorting out 23 years of accumulation I came across a very battered photograph, dated August 1953 of 5 young people, 2 boys and three girls. grouped together in a very English Country Garden. All in their teens and looking full of life. Then the memories came flooding back. Of course the vicar's daughters, Tilly,(12) Liza(13) and Judy(15) (For some reason Judy, always known as Gin Bottle to all, including her family.) Bobby Varcoe(13) and myself(13). It must be correct as 1953 was the summer holiday I spent with Bobby's family rather than go home to South Africa on the Union Castle Mail Ship as was usual for me.

Bob's Father Harold was a very keen gardener known for his vegetables. His Vegetable Garden backed onto the Church. This summer season a massive weed appeared in the middle of this garden which had grown very quickly to quite large proportions. On the morning in question, at breakfast, Bob's father had expressed a wish to get rid of it. So the seed was planted.

Having gathered on the lawn as was our usual want. The Weed was discussed and what to do with it.. Gin Bottle suggested we blow it up. Instant approval, however, how to do it. Here the adventure really begins.

Bob decided to collect twenty five shotgun cartridges from his father's study and duly emptied out the powder into a pocket of aluminum foil. So now we had the explosive element. However as Gin Bottle said in her usual blunt way, "Not much bloody use unless we can set off is it!"

Bob's father was an electrical engineer by profession. Therefore, it did not take long to find the materials and assemble the charge. In the meantime Gin Bottle had excavated a hole under The Weed to her full arm's length, "It looked like a rabbit hole" The charge was put into a cardboard tube sealed at one end. The fuse which consisted of a bicycle light bulb soldered to the wire we had from the workshop with the glass cracked. Gently put into the tube and topped up with the rest of the charge and sealed. Placed down the long hole, tapped and set.

Bobby, Tilly and Lisa had already run the cable around the side of the house out of direct line with The Weed.

All set so to speak, Oh yes and how do we set it off? Again Gin Bottle came to the fore

Quite easy, "Bob turn your bike upside down, get the back wheel speeding and drop the dynamo on to the spinning wheel". So that is what we did. Bobby held his beloved bicycle. I turned the crank and pedals as fast as I could. Gin Bottle dropped the dynamo onto the spinning tire.

Silence for a split second then a very deep

Crump!!!!!! Followed by a strange silence.

Then it started to rain, earth! We peered around the corner of the house. No weed, just a crater about 18 inches deep and probably 5 ft in diameter. No sign of The Weed in the garden, however it did not take long to find it. On the church roof. The vestry backed onto the garden. Oh dear three cracked windows.

We decided we were in for a dressing down at best so set about clearing up all our mess at great haste. This we did except for The Weed which remained for several weeks before it dried out and blew away.

Then the police arrived!!! An inspector and Sergeant Rossitor, a giant of a man but very fair and kind. We were hauled into the dining room and sat in a line like crows on a gate. Told to give an account of what we had done and told the horrific punishment we could receive. (If I remember correctly it included Hanging, Drawing and Quartering alternatively Boiling in Oil or seemed to) Five sets of knees knocking like castanets by now I might add. Dressing down over the Inspector whose name still escapes me, turned to the three girls and said go and make us a cup of tea and don't forget the biscuits.

Today it would be a very different story indeed and one not worth contemplating. In those days people had a very strong understanding of reality and life.

Sadly we five, once young and carefree people are no more. Gin Bottle became a Psychiatrist, Tilly and Lisa became Queen Alexander nurses. The three sisters have all passed away now. Dear Bobby became a Research Engineer and who was possibly the wildest of all, I seem to remember Mafikeng being relieved and the Salvation Army, as one of his exploits. Now lying in a bed in a nursing home unable to move because of a major stroke. Yet his eyes show how trapped he is and begging to end his misery for him.

Therefore in their honour and because I want to!!!

Just One More......

Simon Wager

Mad Dog Black Jack



MERE AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME

Charity Registration 1062328





Link Update January 2023

Hi All

As we enter 2023 we are able to look at the 2022 statistics for the Link Scheme. Link drivers did 975 trips in 2022 (982 in 2021) covering 36,761 miles (31,313 in 2021) and our volunteers worked 3,541 hours (3,893 in 2021). A big thank you to all our volunteers for providing this valuable service.

We always need new drivers so Community First, who oversee all the Link Schemes for Wiltshire Council, will be visiting Mere on Tuesday 21 February for a day of door knocking and leafleting to encourage more volunteers. If you would like to find out more about volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on **01747 860096**.

Our volunteer drivers are available to take you to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and even shopping, if resources allow. Once you have an appointment please call 01747 860096 to book a Link driver. As a charity we do not charge for trips but ask for a donation. Please try to give us 48 hours notice, if possible, as we cannot guarantee

to arrange last minute requests. Also, please remember that our coordinators work in their own homes so keep calls to 9-5 Monday to Friday and only use the **01747 860096** number.

Any other number you have recorded will most likely be a co-ordinator's private number. Please do not use it.
Best wishes

John

John FitzGerald Chair Mere and District Link Scheme 01747 860867 07795606426 *Link phone 01747 860096*

www.merelink.org.uk





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20% discount for Maiden Bradley Residents

Terms and conditions:

- 1. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only and not in conjunction with any other offers or deals.
- 2. To make use of the discount you must be at least 18 years old.
- 3. The discount can only be used on the final bill and by 1 person only.
- 4. For food and beverage only.
- 5. Cannot be used for more than 8 people and each person must be dining.
- 6. We will retain your personal information for as long as you have local discount and you can cancel this at any time by emailing reception@thebradleyhare.co.uk along with the use of the discount. By accepting this, you agree that we may email you with other offers and events at The Bradley Hare.
- 7. The Bradley Hare reserves the right to alter or terminate the loyalty card at any time.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Valentines Menu on Tuesday 14th.

Pancake Day 21st February.

Burger Night every Tuesday (excluding the 14th) 3 different burgers to choose from and get a free pint on draught or small glass of house wine.

Set Menu every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunch, 2 courses for £25, 3 courses for £30.

Parish Council 10th January 2023

Co-option- The Chairman Councillor Simon Wager welcomed the new Councillor, Councillor Tyler Barrass to the team.

Speed Indicator Device - Councillor Simon Wager reported on the SID Engineers visit to fix the unit. There has not been enough sunlight for it to recharge as it has a high usage. It was agreed that an additional set of keys could be purchased.

Community Garden Grant Request- The Grant application for £490.00 from the Community Garden Group was approved. The Grant would be awarded out of the 2023/2024 budget when the precept has been received.

Rights of Way- Councillor Ann-Marie Halligan reported that there had been a meeting on the rights of ways with the estate. Any actions will be funded by the Estate, and the group will stay connected regarding the timeline for the works. The estate has a programme in place, and it was important that the farmers concerns moving forward were considered. A lot of common ground had been had.

Dates for Council Meetings- approved the below list of dates. The Clerk was instructed to approach the village hall Booking Officer to confirm the dates. The budget meeting was moved to November 2023. The budget would be sent out in November for Councillors to view before the meeting.

Tuesday 11th April 2023 7.00pm

Tuesday 9th May 2023 7.30pm Annual Parish Council meeting (Following on from the Annual Parish meeting)

Tuesday 13th June 2023 7.00pm

Tuesday 12th July 2023 7.00pm

There will be no meeting during the August Summer break

Tuesday 12th September 2023 7.00pm

Tuesday 10th October 2023 7.00pm

Tuesday 14th November 2023 7.00pm (Budget meeting)

Tuesday 12th December 2023 7.00pm

Tuesday 9th January 2024 7.00pm

Tuesday 13th February 2024 7.00pm

Tuesday 24th March 2024 7.00pm

Tuesday 9th April 2024 7.00pm

Separate Planning meetings will take place as and when required

Items for the next Agenda: Register of Interests update, Policy updating and the updating of the Action Plan.

Date of the next Full Council meeting. The Council agreed that the 21st of February 2023 would be the date of the next Parish Council meeting. The agenda will be published on the 14th of February 2023. 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 can be accessed to read a copy of the Agenda and Minutes electronically or copies are displayed on the Millennium Notice Board at the Bus Stop.

Mrs Sarah Jeffries the Parish Clerk can be contacted by email clerk@maidenbradley-pc.gov.uk, by phone on 01985 213436, or by post to Parish Clerk, 9 Beech Grove, Warminster, BA12 0AB

Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson's parish column



Listening to recent results of how Wiltshire Police officers feel about their job, their morale and general state of mind causes me great concern.

Hearing people's lived experiences are often very, very, different to what you think you know. I talk to our frontline officers regularly and these results aren't surprising given the last six months Wiltshire Police has had — and how policing is regarded generally at the moment.

But we can't just look at one element of these survey results in insolation.

Everything I, and my office, have been working on in the last few months – getting the right person for our next Chief Constable, the police precept and ensuring we have a budget that balances investment with efficiency, increasing performance, looking at strategic leadership and culture issues – is inter-connected with improving morale.

I heard an interesting quote this week: 'Culture eats strategy for breakfast'. And it's so true! We can have all the strategies, plans, documents we like but if our workplace isn't in a good place, our standards and culture is off balance then we must acknowledge it will have direct impact on those working for the organisation.

Why does this matter? Why aren't we just getting on with policing?

Well, if we have more happy, satisfied, officers out on our streets – if they are staying in their jobs longer than a few years – then this ultimately has a knock-on effect on our communities, on the police service being delivered and it will contribute to Making Wiltshire Safer – the primary goal of both Wiltshire Police and my office.

Someone said this week that policing had been trading on the goodwill of its officers and staff for quite a long time – it is now time to redress that imbalance.

One good area to start would be to tackle pay - I believe police officers deserve to earn a decent salary – and Wiltshire Police deserves to have a fairer slice of the central government pie.

And that's why I will be adding my voice, along with other PCCs, on both of these issues at a national conference in a few weeks' time.

We all know lobbying for change takes time and that is why, in the meantime, I will be focusing on this – and how to tackle the root causes of these worrying results – over the coming months with our current leadership and our incoming new Chief Constable. It has been a busy start to 2023 for us all.

Contact Information

Emma Morton Head of Communications and Engagement Wiltshire OPCC 07384 820760 emma.morton@wiltshire.police.uk



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COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWS

Police Community Volunteers working on behalf of the Wiltshire Police and Maiden Bradley



Community Speed Watch News. Produced by the Maiden Bradley Community Speed Watch Volunteers to keep the village safe and aware of our activities.

Although there are no statistics to report again on CSW activity, being stood down now until the 23rd January 2023. Because the Device has been sent for calibration. Does not mean that CSW has been idle. It has given time to reflect, review CSW activities, our successes and areas that may need a different approach. We now hope to get back in action week commencing 23rd January 2023

We were concerned that we did not have enough CSW members to operate an effective Three sessions a fortnight operation. That has changed with the coming of two new members to the CSW team and one existing member returning to activity. This brings the group up to twelve members. A very big thank you to the two new members and the returned member. However we have now lost one member so things are a little more difficult to give the coverage we had planned.

The SID on Frome Road is off at the moment to allow it to charge up again. because of the inclement weather.

I would like to give my HEARTFELT THANK YOU AGAIN, to all the CSW volunteers both past and present who have and will continue to work so hard to keep our village and community safe as they are able.

And of course EQUALLY - THANK YOU Maiden Bradley Village and Community for all your support you show and give for the Community Speed Watch Team.

Yes we even get offered a cup of tea at one location - which is very welcome at times.

Simon Wager

Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator.

Chairman Maiden Bradley Parish Council





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