



MAIDEN BRADLEY

NEWS

MARCH 2023

THE NEW TOWER DOOR AT ALL SAINTS

- 1 Wed **Household waste collection**
- 3 & 4 F & S **THE TEMPORARY MEASURE - POP UP PUB NIGHT AT THE HALL**
- 5 Sun **Catchup in the Hall 10-11am**
- 6 Mon **Green recycling**
- 8 Wed **Black box and blue bin recycling**
- 12 Sun **Morning Worship with Celia Blay 10am**
GREENER MAIDEN BRADLEY COFFEE MORNING AT THE HALL 11AM -12
- 15 Wed **St Martin's Church Zeals – Evensong with the Bishop of Salisbury 6-8pm with refreshments.**
Household waste collection
- 17 Fri **FILM NIGHT - MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS**
- 19 Sun **Sunday 19th March - Mothering Sunday Service at All Saints with Jane Hurd - 10-10.30am**
- 20 Mon **Green recycling**
- 21 Tues **Defibrillator training in the Hall 7pm**
COPY DATE : Copy to pat@visa-office.com
- 22 Wed **Black box and Blue bin recycling**
- 25 Sat **RUDDIGORE - GILBERT AND SULLIVAN IN THE HALL 7PM**
- 26 Sun **Parish Communion - Rev. Stella Wood 10am**
- 29 Wed **Household waste collection**
- 1st April **VILLAGE LITTER PICK**
- 2 Sun **Palm Sunday Service with Jane Hurd 10am**
- 3 Mon **Easter Bingo at the Hall 7pm for 7.30 start**



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 845397
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

EDITORIAL

Despite being in the middle of winter, February has been a very busy month in the village. Progress has been made with the repairs to the Church, the 20mph signs have been installed in the High Street, events in the Memorial Hall have been well received and we have more new people moving into the village. I particularly like two articles this month, Val's memories of growing up in the 50's (which I can identify with) and a great idea from Kate Moore borrowed from Radio 4, interviews in a chain.

With the cessation of a couple of advertisers for the News, we are looking for new ones so if you have any ideas, please get in touch.

Patricia Kennedy pat@visa-office.com

MOTHERING SUNDAY - 19TH MARCH

The day we traditionally remember the love of our mothers and show our love in return. Everyone, especially children, will receive a warm welcome at the church service, from 10 – 10.30am. Children of any age, no matter how young, will receive a posy of flowers to give to their mother and there will be refreshments after the service. Please come!

GOOD LUCK TO PEARL IN HER NEW HOME.....



As a lot of you know I have left the village and my home at 61 The Rank after over fifty years and I am in the process of making a new home in Warminster which is more suitable for me as I get older.

When I moved into the Rank with my late husband Frank we were the young kids on the block being only 26 years of age both of us and I left the eldest. We had some very happy times in Maiden Bradley and sad ones, the village helped us through all of them.

We came to the village because my sister was Headmistress at the village school before it closed, also my parents had moved to the village in the bungalow where Jenny & Mike Lucas now live. We brought up three daughters there who also enjoyed the freedom of village life. I will try and support as many things in the village while I am able to drive, but all

I will say is try and enjoy your village what you put into it you will make friends and get help when you need it.

My final note is to Kris and Polly and the children who moved into 61. I hope you enjoy it as much as we as a family did.

Pearl Hudson

MAGAZINE AVAILABLE ONLINE ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE:
WWW.MAIDENBRADLEYVILLAGE.ORG.UK

WHITE HORSE OPERA
RIDDIGORE

The Witch's Curse
 by
 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



What's going on???
 01985 845303 (answerphone)
www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk

GREENER MAIDEN BRADLEY
 (Climate Committee)

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR
 A SOCIAL AND INFORMATION SESSION

Browse our swap table - bring along small items,
 browse the table & take home something you need.



Coffee Morning
 SUNDAY 12 MARCH 11am



MAIDEN BRADLEY VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

THE TEMPORARY MEASURE Pop-up pub nights!

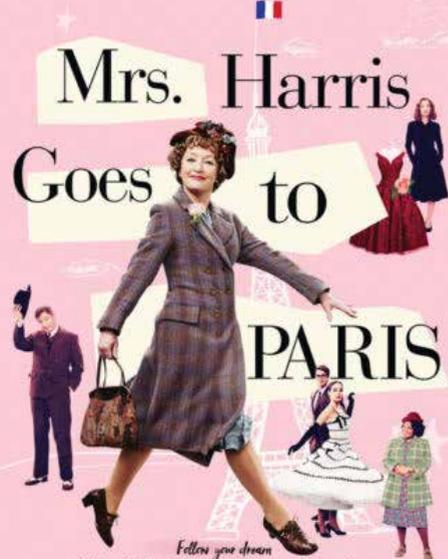
Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall
 Friday March 3 / Saturday March 4th
 5pm - 11pm (last orders 10.30)

LICENSED BAR
 DARTS
 POOL
 CHAT
 FUN



come along and make new friends - children welcome until 8pm

Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris



Follow your dream

Leah Miller, Isabelle Mankiewicz, Lorraine Pilkington, Alison Rastall, Laura Ridd, Ellen Thomas, James Wright

July 15

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS 10.00AM-11.00AM
 Yoga for all

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

****STOP PRESS****
Easter Bingo - Monday April 3rd

SPRING EVENTS COMING UP...

FRIDAY 3RD & SATURDAY 4TH MARCH BOTH EVENINGS FROM 5PM
THE RETURN OF 'THE TEMPORARY MEASURE' - PUB NIGHT AND GAMES

SUNDAY 5TH MARCH - 10-11 SUNDAY CATCH-UP COFFEE MORNING

SUNDAY 12TH MARCH - GREENER MAIDEN BRADLEY COFFEE MORNING 11-12

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH - Film Night 'Mrs Harris Goes to Paris'
 Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH - 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

SATURDAY 1ST APRIL - COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

FRIDAY APRIL 7TH (GOOD FRIDAY)
BRADLEY BABES JOIN FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING!
 ACTIVITIES AND EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL - BANJO CIRCUS LIVE MUSIC EVENT






Cover Story - OUR CHURCH

All Saints Church sits in the heart of our village where it has stood for over 1000 years. For all elderly church buildings, especially those like ours that are Grade I Listed, the costs of upkeep are enormous.

If you enjoy the sound of church bells calling our community together whether it's for weddings or baptisms, flower festivals or carol singing, Remembrance Services or weekly worship, or if you treasure moments of peace and quiet contemplation, our church is a pivotal part of the fabric of village life.

The Friends of Maiden Bradley Church do all they can to maintain this beautiful, ancient church so that future generations of villagers will be able to enjoy it, as we do today. Every donation given to The Friends, goes towards the upkeep of the building and graveyard.

This month, the proceeds of the fascinating talk on the Ukraine conflict, initiated by Pat Kennedy, were donated to The Friends. As a result, we now have a new, beautifully crafted oak door for the church tower, replacing the old door that was badly rotten. All the original ironwork has been refurbished and reused by the craftsman who has added his maker's mark, an acorn cut into the apex at the top of the door. To everyone who helped make the event happen and for supporting our church building, THANK YOU!

TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF MAIDEN BRADLEY CHURCH OR TO MAKE A DONATION, PLEASE CONTACT SARAH NEISH OR DIANA GREEN.



Professor Geoff Till OBE -local church enthusiast and naval hisorian



Remember this.....

There's been so much written about saving the planet and so many cost-of-living, power-saving tips - I can't keep up. So I've decided to try and stop feeling guilty about it, but to act where I can.

Growing up in Yorkshire in the 50s, prudent living was normal. Anyone remember 'make do & mend'? I've always recycled - turning worn double sheets sides-to-middle to make a single, making dusters and floor-cloths out of worn tea towels etc. As for central heating - we had a kitchen range back then, but you needed plenty of clothes in the rest of the house.

Scraping ice off the inside of your bedroom window wasn't unusual, hot water bottles (we even had a stone one but it wasn't very popular), sleeping with vest and pants under the pillow, getting dressed under the covers..... It all seemed perfectly normal.

So for me, keeping warm is more about putting on an extra jumper than turning up the heat. And what about cooking from scratch - was there any other way? Old habits die hard, so the current enforced frugal living comes relatively easy. Even as a 'grown up' I've rarely been a big earner, so it's not much of a hardship nowadays to be economical rather than profligate. Years ago I chose a fairly minimalist lifestyle and indulged my love of travel and exploring new places by hitch-hike, bikes, vans and old boats rather than Cruises and the Grand Tour.

With the loss of our village shop, online shopping became a game changer for me, and it really came into its own with covid lockdowns. But now I worry about all these one-off deliveries. Supermarkets seem to organise it pretty well, offering delivery slots, but the likes of Amazon offer next day delivery for the smallest of items. How economical can that be?

These days I'm much more conscious of plastic and of packaging in general, and I buy in bulk wherever possible. I feed my dogs on rehydrated dried food (delivered in bulk), some suppliers even allow you to return the packaging for reuse. I no longer automatically "treat" my dogs chemically for conditions they may not have, such as fleas and worms etc., but keep a close eye on them and where possible use gentler methods.

There's not much more we can cut back on nowadays, and we've found the village website really useful for this. Asking for lifts or meds to be collected may not come easy at first, but when it's for the Greater Good (a Greener Maiden Bradley), it's worth it. Powerless over the cost of power and cost of living, I make a daily decision to be grateful for everything I do have. You'd be amazed what a difference an attitude of gratitude makes to a day.

I try to be kind to the planet because it has been kind to me. Both still here after all these years!

Val

Please come along and chat about these kinds of concerns and much more from 11am-midday at our next coffee morning on Sunday 12th March at the Village Hall. There will be a swap table for useable items that you no longer need but still have some value. No electrical items please.



This month we are starting a new regular interview slot about the people who live in our Parish. If it is to be regular that is up to you!

Kate has been interviewed this month and she will be asking someone else to be interviewed next month. They will ask someone else in the following month and so on.

If you are asked to contribute and you agree then you will receive (via email) a list of questions. You choose and answer about 9 or 10 of them. Then you email it to Kate with a photo of yourself and she will forward it to the ever wonderful assemblers of this brilliant publication! The questions are very open so that you can say as much or as little as you are happy with.

Hopefully we will get to know each-other better!

Link Number One - Kate Moore, High Street

How long have you lived in the village?

4 & ½ years.

Tell us about your work

After a science degree I trained to be a teacher and taught on and off for 20 years (around having children). We moved to Frome in 2002 where I did a lot of supply teaching, short term contracts and tutoring. In 2005 my husband Damon & I bought the ruined Silk Mill and started renovating it with support from work exchange volunteers and our family. Now I run the 22 studios and gallery event space. No longer teaching I miss the contact with children but I do not miss the school politics and paperwork!

Tell us about your hobbies

Where do I start? I loved to knit & embroider but can't now as I have a dodgy shoulder. I am a bit obsessive about my garden and the wonderful Community Garden. I used to be a keen potter but haven't done that for a while now, same for basket weaving.... You see what I mean! I sew, make jewellery and do a bit of painting, and there is the odd Christmas window creation... Reading is of course always there and it is fun to be part of the Book Group here. I absolutely love singing with Songbirds in Frome and I am a regular bellringer.



Tell us about your family

My mother was a painter who also dabbled in other arts (like me!) and supported my father who was a relatively well known scientist; J Z Young. He was born in 1907 and in the 1930s he discovered the giant nerve fibre of the squid which was large enough (1mm across) to be seen with the naked eye. This meant that experimental work could be carried out on it and much of what we now know about the transmission of nerve signals was pioneered by people working on these nerves. He died in 1997 a few weeks before our youngest son was born.

What is the furthest you have travelled and why?

To Japan when a translation of my father's book Programs of the Brain was published there. The publishers wanted him to come and launch it. My mother found the invitation in the bin and told him we were going. They sent us 3 first class tickets (the only time I have ever travelled first class!). I was a grumpy teenager in a great coat. I had a wonderful time but I was not prepared to show it!

What are you most proud of in your life?

My three sons, Gulliver (35) a filmmaker, Dickon (33) who works at the Wellcome Institute and Francis (25) who is a freelance event technician and keen shakuhachi player. They all live in London.

Tell us some things that you like about the area

The hills around here are quite extraordinarily lovely and we are so very fortunate to have such a beautiful area to walk in. I hope we can preserve and enhance the landscape for future generations. Since living here I have been ringing the bells at All Saints Church, this is a difficult but very rewarding thing to be doing.

Tell us something that you think will surprise most of us?

Dickon was mayor of Frome when he was 21.

Tell us about your pets

We have 2 cats, the fluffiest of which spends much of her life in our window. She even wrote an article for the Parish News once about all the people walking past!

Tell us about a highlight in your life

Meeting my wonderful husband Damon (when we were both 19 and at university) He is my best friend and my rock.



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MERE AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME
February update - John Fitzgerald

www.merelink.org.uk

01747 860096
9am – 5pm Weekdays Only

We had a busy start to 2023 with 92 trips in January 26 of which were to Salisbury District Hospital.

I mentioned last month that 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).

One of our volunteers, Elaine Noble has kindly produced an infographic of our work in 2022 which I hope you find interesting.

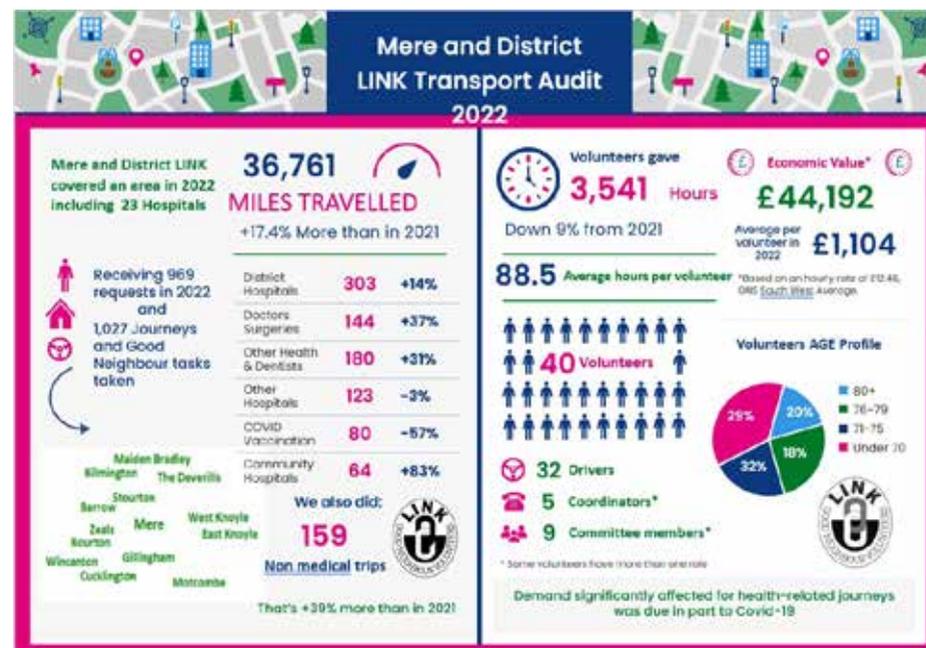
At our Committee meeting on 13 February we co-opted Judy Fray as our new secretary. Judy is very welcome and takes over from Hamish Bell who kindly agreed to continue as a Trustee and Committee member until our AGM. We are grateful to Hamish for all his work as Link Secretary. Talking of our AGM this will be held on Friday 23 June at 7pm in the Grove Building. After the meeting we will have drinks and nibbles socially. Everyone is welcome. 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. If you would like to find out more about volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

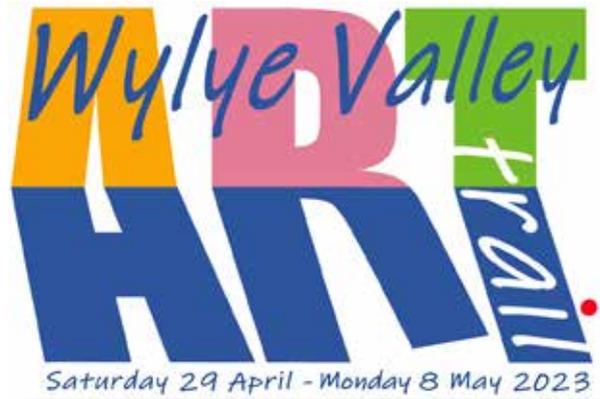
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It's back!

The Wylve Valley Art Trail is taking place again this spring, from Saturday 29th April until Monday 8th May.

The Wylve Valley Art Trail is a fantastic, eclectic festival of visual art and craft set in 73 venues across southwest Wiltshire. There are galleries, open studios and workplaces, shows of art groups and student groups, virtual exhibitions, hands-on activities, demonstrations, workshops and talks – and, of course, so much more. This year there are over 250 exhibitors, from award-winning artists with international reputations to those just starting out on their creative journeys. The Trail provides a unique opportunity to view a huge range of artistic skills – from oil painting to digital art, from photography to video and installation, from printmaking to furniture making, from sculpture to jewellery and ceramics – in one of the most beautiful parts of both the county and the country.

The Trail team is hugely proud that in early 2022 Her Majesty the Queen approved the QAVS National Assessment Committee's recommendation that the volunteers of the Wylve Valley Art Trail should receive the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). This was one of the final awards made by Elizabeth II before her death in September 2022.

Nick Andrew, founder and coordinator of the Wylve Valley Art Trail, says,

"I hope you enjoy following the 12th Wylve Valley Art Trail. I can't believe that it's 22 years since the first event in 2001, when 34 studios, workshops and makeshift galleries threw open their doors, stretching a vibrant trail across this beautiful corner of Wiltshire. Since then it has taken place every two years, organised by a small team of volunteers, growing in size and bringing a wonderfully colourful and varied patchwork of visual creativity across the landscape to the attention of enthusiastic and art hungry visitors.

"Achieving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is a fabulous honour and reflects profoundly on everyone involved in WVAT over the years, from the organising teams through to the participants."

Colourful and eye-catching Wylve Valley Art Trail brochures will be available from early April at Tourist Information Centres, Arts Centres, libraries and many other places.

For more information please contact info@wvat.co.uk or phone 07730 400784.
www.wvat.co.uk



Steve Gunter
'Needles'
venue 46

Tonia Gunstone
'Skógar'
venue 44



Susanna Lisle
'Beyond the
Breeze'
venue 45

LUNCHEON CLUB

We are back at last. After the problem with the cooker at Horningsham we have spent the last four weeks at Maiden Bradley. Our grateful thanks to the Maiden Bradley Hall Committee for at short notice letting us use their hall. Special thanks to Keith for putting the tables up each week and to Carole and Mary for showing us where everything was, for their help each week and making us feel so welcome.

February is the month that the Luncheon Club began 40 years ago. The brainchild of Hazel Gillingham and the late Brenda Mackintosh. To celebrate this milestone we are holding an afternoon tea at Horningsham Hall on Thursday 13th April at 3.00pm. If there are any past members, cooks or helpers who would like to join us please get in touch with Margaret or Lesley. We are hoping that Hazel will be well enough to join us all the way from Norfolk and past Chairwoman Jane Yates will also be coming back to celebrate with us.

Let us hope that the Club will continue to thrive for another 40 years.

Margaret 844756 and **Lesley** 211355

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

January

1st Jean Ball	£25.10	2nd Charles Carter	£12.55
3rd Cas Gunter	£7.60	4th Jessie Betts	£5.00

February

1st Steve Gunter	£25.10	2nd Jannine Barron	£12.55
3rd Rosie Brown	£7.60	4th Alex Haig	£5.00

Thank you

To all those contributors to the Hall Lottery, a very big thank you for helping maintain this vital social hub. Over this year alone £600+ has gone to you in prizes and £600+ to the maintenance of the Hall.

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.

Welcome Club

On Thursday March 23rd at Horningsham Hall the Welcome Club hold the opening meeting of the season at 2pm. Members will pay £5.00 subscription and collect their membership card telling them where we are going on our Outings this year. Anyone over 60 years of age can be member, the more the merrier and we look forward to seeing new faces as well as the old ones!. The first outing of the season is on Tuesday 25th April when it will be a mystery trip when only the driver knows where we are going anyone interested, please give me a call on 01985 219289.

Pearl

Police and Crime Commissioner
Philip Wilkinson
Parish column - Feb 23



#MakingWiltshireSafer



Precept
2023

Wiltshire and Swindon
pcc

My annual budget proposed a raise the amount of money you pay for the policing part of your council tax, known as the precept, by 6.2%. For an average Band D household, that equates to £15 a year or £1.25 a month.

It's been a difficult decision to make and that's why it was important we consulted you. Over 2,700 people responded to the survey. We also took it out across Swindon and Wiltshire to gather your feedback. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you if you took the time to complete it. 54% of people who responded said they would be prepared to support a maximum rise but it's important to make clear why I asked you to support that option. Without putting up the precept, Wiltshire Police would need to save over £4m in the next year. Even by increasing the precept, savings will be key but I'm confident this will happen at the same time as delivering a better service.

We will put 32 extra police officers on the streets of Wiltshire, in addition to the new Uplift officers. We should have 1,189 police officers by the end of March this year – the highest number for quite some time.

I am constantly speaking to our local MPs and government ministers about the funding formula. We need a fairer system which provides our police force with the investment equal to forces similar to ours.

By raising the precept, we can show we are playing our part in funding our police force and this puts us in a stronger position.

With more officers on our streets and a better use of our existing funds, I hope you will see an improvement in the service you receive and see value for money in the measures I've taken to make Wiltshire a safer place to live and work.

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



Hello!!! We're Back!!! (We have a list!!!)

9th January 2023. We worked our last session on The High Street in the company of Wiltshire Police. Very few cars and certainly no speeding. This was the last session on High Street for at least 3 months as the 20MPH Speed Limit is now in place. It would be interesting if anyone took it upon themselves from CSW to carry out a quiet survey to see how well the new speed limit is having an effect. Wear your High Vis of course for safety.

An interesting if a little irritating. On Monday 13th February we received an email from Wiltshire Police Speed Watch Dept instructing Maiden Bradley CSW to stand down as of now to comply with the new Speed Limits on the roads around Maiden Bradley. High Street, Church Street, Back Lane, Kingston Lane and The Rank and that the locations were no longer approved and CSW Device handed over to the Deverills group.. Wow!!! success. Short lived I am afraid. On reading the TRO's attached including the one for High Street 20mph which we knew about and was expected. The other two attached reconfirmed not a change in speed limit rather confirmation of the existing speed limit. A case of too much information. After conversations by the afternoon we received confirmation that we were fully able to continue our activities excluding High Street. I am told it was a typing error.

So from now on teams will be operating in the usual positions.

In the last two sessions 11 vehicles have been booked at between 38 and 43 mph on Church street. So a good beginning.

Thank you to all the CSW members both regular and new. It is a worthwhile job. Thank You.

The undoubted success of the SID (Speed Indicator Device) on Frome Road. has had a positive effect in traffic calming and quite rightly changed the CSW activity. A second one of the same type has been agreed for the church end of the village along with other improvements to the traffic calming in that area. So you see the importance of gaining volunteers to spread the load.

THANK YOU Maiden Bradley Village and Community for all your support you show and give for the Community Speed Watch Team.



Simon Wager

Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator,
Chairman Maiden Bradley Parish Council

Visit to the Falklands December 2022

Paul Cox

2nd April 1982 saw the Argentine invasion of The Falkland Islands. This started the ball rolling in what was to become for me, and thousands of others like me, a defining part of our lives. I was a young sailor in the Royal Navy onboard a frigate, HMS Argonaut. Our collective part in the conflict was no more or less important than any other individuals or unit. We were attacked, we were strafed, we were bombed and we sustained casualties including 2 of my shipmates killed. Thus started the ticking clock that eventually lead a number of us to revisit the islands in December 2022 (my second such visit having gone back previously, in 2017). We all have our own reasons for such a visit but amongst mine was to garner a greater understanding of the conflict. I'd already ascertained 'why the conflict?' The answer to which is quite straightforward - the islands are British, the people are British and wish to remain so. I now needed to see where the conflict took place and develop a greater understanding of the various battles and the battlegrounds on which they took place and the simply astounding accomplishments of those involved.

So it was that 9 of us former 'Argonauts' departed RAF Brize Norton in the wee small hours of Monday 5 December to begin the 19 hour flight, via Cape Verde, into RAF Mount Pleasant (MPA), the military centre of the UK's presence on the Falklands.

As part of my preparation for the trip I'd begun reading a book, entitled The First Casualty, about the initial invasion, on 2 April 1982 and the defence of Stanley by the resident Royal Marine detachment known as Naval Party (NP) 8901. I was aware that a couple of former members of the detachment had flown into the Falklands earlier that week and there were going to be others there also. They were there to witness the unveiling of a plaque in their honour commemorating their achievements on 2 April 1982.

Our flight landed in 'MPA' and we eventually board a coach for the hour long ride to Stanley. Once on the coach I realised that about 20 former members of NP8901 had been on the flight and we were all now travelling together to Stanley. I can't describe my feelings at being in the midst of these self-same guys whose antics I'd just been reading about.

I'd planned to write a short article for the parish magazine about my visit to the Falkland Islands but had intended it to be about our groups travels and adventures during our 2 week stay. Having read the book and met and chatted at length with the marines I felt I needed to write a little more about NP8901 and their actions on 2 April 1982. The reason is they have been dealt a great injustice by Government and media alike. For those that may recall, as far as the British media was concerned The Royal Marines 'surrendered without a shot being fired' (Daily Mail). Other newspapers and TV reports were broadcasting the same story. Ergo it's fair to conclude that, according to the reports, no casualties were inflicted on the invading forces. This is so far from the truth as to be laughable. Without going into too much detail, each of the 70 or so marines involved had come to terms with the fact they were going to die that day in their defence of Stanley and it's civilian inhabitants. They knew the invading force would be large. The initial force was actually in excess

of 6,000 and the marines were outnumbered 100-1. Again, to cut a long story short, the marines had literally ransacked their own armoury and that of the Falkland Islands Defence Force and were now dispersed in and around Stanley and the airport to await the oncoming assault and do what they could before fate overtook them. Once the invasion was underway, far from any 'surrender without a shot being fired', the marines of NP8901 fired some 4500 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition and dozens of 66mm and 88mm rockets. Argentina claimed 1 fatality and several wounded. The actual figure, although difficult to be entirely certain, is at least 70 fatalities but most likely more than 100 and 40-50 wounded but again most probably considerably higher.

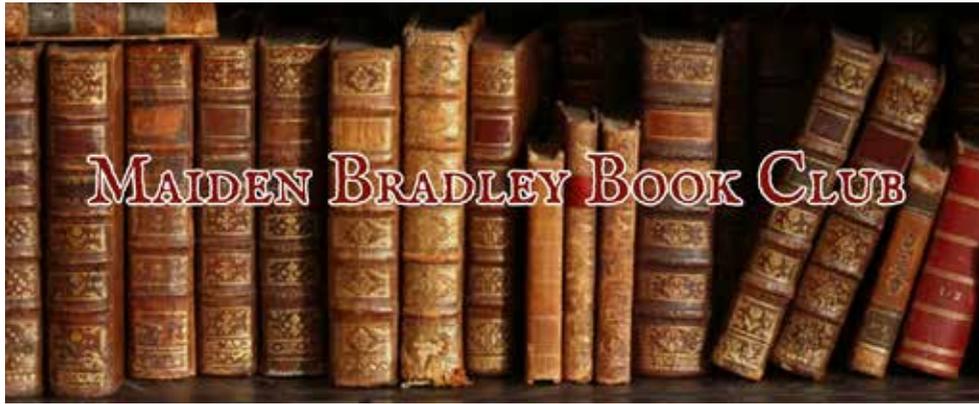
Incredibly, during a sustained firefight of several hours in Stanley and more particularly Government House, the Royal Marines sustained no casualties with the exception of 1 man who gashed his thigh whilst jumping a corrugated iron fence.

One further bone of contention for these guys that I wish to address on their behalf is that they never surrendered. The Governor, Sir Rex Hunt, (who was well and truly in thick of the fighting in Government House) ordered 'his' men to 'stop fighting and lay down your weapons'. This is of significant importance if you're a dedicated professional soldier.

For my part I was honoured to have had the opportunity to spend so much time in the company of these men who are, in my book, absolute legends.



HMS Argonaut pictured in 1983 courtesy worldnavalships.com



A new feature for the newsletter where the Book Club gives a review of their most recent book choice.

Last month we read *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan, Booker Prize Nominee 2022, which won unanimous praise for its thought-provoking approach to some fairly dark, historic practices in an Irish Convent in the 1980s. A short, beautifully crafted novel of just 116 pages, the Club found it an ideal read over the Christmas period and several of us read it more than once.



The book provoked good debate and shared enjoyment with much enthusiasm for the writer's style, the relatability of the protagonist's moral dilemma, and the stark harshness of young women's life expectations should they stray from the perceived standards set by the catholic church and society at large at that time.

As usual, there was a great deal of chatter and laughter making for a fun evening among friends.

If anyone would like to find out more about the book club or borrow the book, please ring Diana:

01985 844 500.



***Even on a rainy day,
Mary Steven's snowdrops
remind us that
Spring is here!***

photo - Alex Channer

Maiden Bradley
LITTER
PICK

Saturday

1st April 2023

It's April Fool's Day!

please join us, wear **Fancy Dress** or a **Silly Hat** - optional! - and have fun helping to make the villag clean and tidy!

The Litter pick will start at 1.00pm
outside the Memorial Hall and
finish at 3.00pm

