MAIDEN BRADLEY

News

DECEMBER 2023





Maiden Bradley Parish News - Issue 414 Diary December 2023

DECEMBE	R
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1	Fri	Christmas Celebrations at the Hall from 6pm
2	Sat	Christmas Wreath making at the Hall 10 -12am
3	Sun	Catch up coffee morning in the hall 10-11am
4	Mon	Pilates with Dawn in the hall 9.30am
		Village Bingo evening in the hall 7 for 7.30pm
6	WED	HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION
		Silver Sneakers with Dawn in the hall 10am
7	Thurs	Pilates with Dawn in the hall 9.30am
8	Fri	Mo Stepwright footcare
9	Sat	Underwoods fish and chip van 4.30 - 5.30
10	Sun	Service of the Word led by Celia Blay 10am
11	Mon	Pilates with Dawn in the hall 9.30am
		Carol singing in the Hall– donations to
		Dorothy House 6pm
		GREEN RECYCLING
13	WED	BLUE BIN AND BLACK BOX RECYCLING
		Silver Sneakers with Dawn in the hall 10am
14	Thurs	Pilates with Dawn in the hall 9.30am
16	Sat	Wedding 2.30pm
17	Sun	No service
18	Mon	Pilates with Dawn in the hall 9.30am
		Wedding 2.30pm
19	Tue	Carol Service led by LLM Jane Hurd 6pm
20 WED		HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION
		Silver Sneakers with Dawn in the hall 10am
		COPY DEADLINE FOR MB NEWS
21	Thurs	Pilates with Dawn in the hall 9.30am
24	Sun	Midnight Mass led by LLM Jane Hurd 10pm



JANUARY

HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTIONS IN JANUARY 2024 FRIDAY 5TH, WEDNESDAY 17TH AND WEDNESDAY 24TH.

BLUE BIN AND BLACK BOX COLLECTIONS THURSDAY 11TH AND WEDNESDAY 24TH.

GREEN RECYCLING TUESDAY 9TH AND MONDAY 22ND

This month's stunning cover photo was taken by Kate Moore and features Christian walking his dog on a very atmospheric Back Lane

EDITORIAL

As we engage with the last month of the year, the Christmas festivities are well underway. Christmas celebrations on 1st December in the hall, wreath making on Saturday 2nd, Festive Bingo on 4th, Carol singing on 11th, the Church Carol Service on 19th, Christmas Decorations competition judging on 21st and Midnight Mass on 24th.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the Maiden Bradley Parish News this year and the team wishes everyone a very Happy and Healthy Christmas.



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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Speed Watch Co-ordinator	Simon Wager simon.m.wa	ager@gmail.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	Margaret	01985 844756	
Welcome Club Outings	Pearl	01985 219289	
Scrabble Club	Sue	01985 844919	
Memorial Hall bookings booking	gsmaidenbradleyhall@gmail.com	01985 845303	
Dr Andrew Murrison MP	murrisona@parliament.uk	01225 358584	
Bill Parks (Wiltshire Cllr)	bill.parks@wiltshire.gov.uk	07712 490075	
Mere Link Scheme		01747 860096	
Bell Ringing Tuesday 7.30pm in the Ch	urch Bell Tower - beginners welcom	e 01985 845397	
Church contact	Diana Bourne	01985 844500	
Environmental issues	sues greenermaidenbradley@gmail.com		
Nadder Oil Buying Club Em	ail:richard.willan@me.com www.oi	ilbuyingclub.com	

Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

CHRISTMAS IN THE MEMORIAL HALL Friday December 1st - 6pm - 9pm Christmas Celebrations and Fair Proceeds split equally between All Saints Church and the Memorial Hall

Saturday December 2nd 10am - 12am
Christmas Wreath Making
Details: email adrchanner@gmail.com



Monday December 11th 6pm
Carol Singing in aid of Dorothy House



01985 845303 leave message www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk maidenbradleyhall@amail.com

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY 9.30 - 10.30 Pilates

17.00 - 18.00 Doctor's Surgery

TUESDAY 9.30 - 10.30 Bradley Babies

13.00 - 15.00 Post Office Service

WEDNESDAY 10.00AM-11.15AM Silver Sneakers

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT WITH DAWN - COFFEE AND TEA AFTER

18.15 - 19.15 Yoga Flow

THURSDAY 9.30 - 10.30 Pilates

FRIDAY 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning

ALTERNATE SATURDAYS 16.30 - 17.30 FISH & CHIP VAN NO FISH & CHIP VAN ON SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER

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A BIT OF NOSTALGIA......

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BULB PLANTING

On Sunday 19th November a select group of hardy souls gathered on a small grassy area in Maiden Bradley chosen, it would appear, to best catch the gusts of howling wind and squally rain. I say grassy, a mixture of semi-liquid clay and builders' rubble might be closer to the mark.



Nevertheless, spirits remained undaunted. The area, formerly known as the Horse Pond, is in the process of transformation. The Duke of Somerset's Estate has set aside the land to provide a fitting amenity for the village and to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II. The undergrowth has been cleared, and a ring of trees planted by the Duke. The task which our valiant band had set themselves was to plant out two full wheelbarrow-loads of spring bulbs supplied by the Parish Council.

Sam Ribeck, chair of the Maiden Bradley Community Garden, organised and coordinated the event, marshalling not only MBCG members but willing volunteers from the village. Sam commented "it was hard work, but a fantastic effort from people turning out of their homes on a wet Sunday got the job done". Simon Wager, Chairman of the Parish Council, added "a local community in action which should benefit everyone for many years to come".

From 10.30 in the morning, when Sam and Ian Ferguson were busy setting up a field kitchen (Sam's home-made carrot cake should be mentioned in despatches), until 3pm when through the dying light could just be made out the back of James Kennedy hunched against the drizzle and the dim shape of Alex Channer trudging home in the gloaming, it was a long day of hard work.

Let us hope that our springs will be brightened by radiant displays of thankful bulbs delighted to repay the effort.





USE LESS AND RECYCLE MORE

Some thoughts from Greener Maiden Bradley's newest member; Maria Higgins

In our many preparations for Christmas it is good to allow time for consciousness of our choices. Here are some tips on how we can celebrate the festive season and be kind to the environment.

DECORATIONS

Decorations made from nature can be fun and satisfying try working with ivy, pine cones, holly or elder twigs. Slices of orange dried by the fire or put in the oven with a roast to dry out, look and smell lovely threaded onto string or ribbon.

If you are not feeling creative or struggle to find time, charity shops have second hand decorations.

Oxfam also sell a wonderful range of Christmas decorations as well as presents, stocking fillers, wrapping papers and cards which can be relied upon to be eco friendly and fair trade.

Lessen the impact of lights by using fewer and if buying new lights consider solar powered or LED options.

SHOPPING GREENER

Consider what your gifts are made from, if wood, is it FSC certified? Reduce plastic gifts, & packaging.

Experiences such as tickets for day trips, a national trust membership, creative workshops or theatre tickets bring fulfilment and joy to your loved ones as well as supporting the arts and other organisations.

Buy locally, fewer but better quality gifts to reduce waste from broken items.

Give gifts which are eco friendly such as rechargeable or solar powered gadgets, gifts which inspire or are actively eco friendly such as organic toiletries, organic bamboo clothing, bird feeders and food, a tree to plant (it is the perfect time of year).

In family or social gatherings where many gifts are exchanged many of which are not really needed or sometimes unwanted you could limit waste and money for everyone is by exchanging wish lists. Or you can organise a secret Santa, where all names are put in a hat in advance and each person is given only one person to buy a gift for with an agreed spending limit.

WRAPPING AND CARDS

Card making and wrapping paper printing using potato prints is always fun, alternatively I love using brown paper or newspaper with string/coloured twine and a few sprigs of ivy or other foraged pieces. If buying paper and cards look out for recycled or FSC certified.

A tradition in my family is to unwrap presents with care and reuse the paper as many times as possible, some go on for years.

FOOD

When planning a seasonal meal only buy what you know will be needed, and look for where you can buy organic and locally produced food.

Until our own wonderful shop opens next year, great places to buy who support locally produced and sustainably organic farming are:

The Stourhead Farm Shop Wykes Farm Shop, Bruton The Frome Wholefoods The Garden Café, Frome Denude refill Shop, Frome

CHRISTMAS TREES

If you are reusing an artificial tree keep reusing and if you tire of it please donate it to a charity shop.

Buy British Christmas trees from as locally as possible. If you buy a potted one look after it and it can be used year after year.

Artificial trees can often be found in charity shops if this is your preference.

Or what I have often done is to find a fallen branch or cut a branch from a fallen tree to decorate it standing it up behind the sofa resting flat against the wall (perfect for space saving) then decorated with ease by standing on the sofa. I find silver birch or beech work well, or coppicing a branch from contorted willow or hazel.



AFTER CHRISTMAS

If you do receive any unwanted gifts, you could keep them and bring them to our up and coming Swap Shop, which I (with help) would like to create and hold in the New Year.



People can bring any good condition household, garden items, gifts, clothes, soft furnishings children's toys, and books and exchanging them for tokens.

Items will be put on display then residents can browse the items and exchange wanted items for tokens.

If the swap shop is a success we could do two or more a year, reducing our waste and trips to the dup and charity shops, while also having a fun and social event.

If you would be interested in helping to organise and run our SWAP SHOP please contact Maria on:

murtleertle@yahoo.com or call 01985 844556

WISHING YOU WONDERFUL WINTER CELEBRATIONS
AND A GREENER NEW YEAR



MUCH FUN - AND JUICE- WAS HAD BY ALL AT THIS YEAR'S APPLE PRESSING DAY AT THE MB COMMUNITY GARDEN.

We cut, mashed, squeezed and bottled all together in the glorious sunshine (hard to imagine now in dreary November).

It was so good to see so many visitors in the garden -

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME.





"BETTY" BY TIFFANY MCDANIEL REVIEWED BY RENALIE SMITH

We all found 'Betty' a powerful and, at times, challenging read. It is the story of a young Native American girl, born in the early fifties, whom we follow from child to young adult, and guided principally by her father. His love of nature, his Cherokee wisdom and philosophy of life, his patience and understanding, all help to support Betty and her 8 siblings as they grow up. Her mother, however, remains more of a background figure, traumatised by her father's rape as a child, and never fully recovering.

We agreed it was not always an easy read. The family struggle with poverty, racist and sexual abuse, but through it all there is hope in the many lyrical descriptions, folklore, and stories the family surround themselves with. Betty has



great resilience, and with the unwavering support of her father, we are left with hope and light at the end of the book.

Our next book is "I, Mona Lisa" by Natasha Solomons.

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN BOOK CLUB, YOU ARE VERY WELCOME.



A few of the people who turned out to help tidy up the churchyard in response to Martin Brown's request last month.

Thank you to everyone - including Barnaby (who cleared the gutters!) seen on the roof!



THE MOST OUTSTANDING DISPLA £25 garde

There will also be a bottle of wine JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE ON

The fee for entry will be f_5 - and all Details for b Maiden Bradley New complete and return the slip below in an envelope to

NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS:

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AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATU-RAL BEAUTY RENAMED NATIONAL LANDSCAPES



New name underpins ambitious targets for nature, climate, people and place

You may already know that on 22nd November, DEFRA announced that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be known as 'National Landscapes'; this stems from the Landscapes Review of 2019. The new name reflects the national importance of this designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the vital contribution that it makes to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work that we do.

We will continue to collaborate with the thriving, diverse communities living and working in our National Landscape to restore ecosystems, provide nutritious food, safeguard against drought and flooding, and nurture people's health and wellbeing.

You may have noticed other National Landscapes have new branding. At Cranborne Chase National Landscape we are working closely with the National Landscapes Association to develop a logo which fits as closely as possible with our current branding, which has been close to the hearts of our community since we were first designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1981. We will share the design with our community before it is adopted, and comments will be welcome.

Fleur de Rhe-Philipe MBE, Chairman of the Cranborne Chase National Landscape Board says: "Since designation in 1981, Cranborne Chase National Landscape has offered tranquillity and relaxation for the many thousands of annual visitors who come to explore the 1000+ miles of Rights of Way, wonder at the numerous historic riches that nestle amongst the downs or simply take a picnic to one of many stunning viewpoints. Having gained the prestigious International Dark-Sky Reserve status in 2019, the myriad of twinkling stars in a jet-black night sky is awe-inspiring.

Since 2019, a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund has enabled over 500 volunteers to be trained in new skills and actively managing many areas for wildlife, others organising an annual Walking Festival, investigating hidden historic gems or participating in many art-based activities. Our Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership Scheme has encouraged hundreds more to express themselves in poetry, song and artistic endeavours, all focussed on this staggeringly beautiful landscape. Local communities, farmers and landowners are fiercely proud of where they live and work; this distinctive landscape is in their blood. They will all continue to be custodians of this spectacular area whilst the small, dedicated National Landscape team will continue to do all it can, to enable them to do just that."

Linda Nunn, Director of Cranborne Chase National Landscape says:

"We may have a new name, but it is the same beautiful place it has always been. Our mission remains conserve and enhance this National Landscape and to make sure everyone can enjoy it. The very distinctive, diverse and cherished landscapes of Cranborne Chase for example, continue to be nurtured and enhanced by the many hundreds of farmers and landowners who are stewards of this unique National Landscape. Whilst the team has always worked closely with the farming community, the Defra funded 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' (FiPL) programme has enabled us to offer grants of over £1million since 2021 to farmers for 85 innovative projects, proposed by themselves, to greatly enhance their land within the themes of Nature, Climate, People and Place. The Cranborne Chase National Landscape team will continue to engage with farmers, local communities and visitors to ensure this much loved nationally designated area is conserved, enhanced and enjoyed into the future."

Discover more about Cranborne Chase National Landscape at www.cranbornechase.org.uk



LINK NUMBER 9 - CORDELIA CHARLES

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED MAIDEN BRADLEY?

My husband, Barnaby, and I moved to Maiden Bradley in June 2021 just after we got married. I grew up in Trudoxhill and always thought Maiden Bradley would be a lovely place to live.

WHAT IS THE FURTHEST YOU HAVE TRAVELLED IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

Barnaby and I lived in New Zealand for two years. We moved out there after I finished vet school so that I could work at a large equine referral hospital but also enjoy travelling in a new country after five intensive years of studying. It was a wonderful experience. A lot of my job involved middle of the night call outs to care for neonatal foals. My abiding memory from these experiences how clearly how you could see the beautiful milky way at 3am with no light pollution.

TELL US SOMETHING OF YOUR WORK PAST AND/OR PRESENT

I graduated as a veterinary surgeon in 2016. Since then, I've worked in New Zealand, Newmarket, Australia and currently work at Bellevue Veterinary Clinic in Trudoxhill which is the practice founded by my father, David Francis. I have undertaken further post graduate qualifications in Equine Stud Medicine which is the area I find most rewarding.

WHAT IS YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY?

I think it's being in the car on the school run for my brother and hearing The Beach Boys I Get Around playing.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FILM/TV SERIES?

My favourite TV series is Peep Show. I love comedy that is almost too painful to watch, some episodes of peep show I literally can't watch as they are too excruciating however I still think its comedy genius.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FUTURE.

I feel the future is what you make it. I'm excited and hopeful.

TELL US SOME THINGS THAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THE VILLAGE/AREA.

I think Maiden Bradley is a fantastic place to live. I love walking my dog in Penny's Wood and seeing my friends at the Bradley Babies group whenever I can get time off work. I am also very grateful for Milly Moos Milk Station, as my son drinks gallons of milk and it's so convenient.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SEASON?

One of my favourite things about living in England is experiencing different seasons. I always feel ready for the next season when I comes along and grateful for the change.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

My mum's roast chicken and her home-made triple chocolate brownies. M&S "world's best prawn sandwich" followed by M&S giant mint chocolate buttons.

TELL US ABOUT A HIGHLIGHT IN YOUR LIFE

My wedding day! It was towards the end of lockdown and we were only allowed 30 guests. We got married at Marston Church then went back to my parent's farm for the wedding breakfast and the dancing. It was so relaxed, and I feel so lucky to have had such a perfect day with my loved ones.

WHAT IS THE BEST BOOK YOU HAVE READ AND WHY DID YOU LIKE IT?

I am a true Harry Potter child and still receive a knitted jumper with my initial on at Christmas in the style of Mrs Weasley. The books always give me comfort and when I was waiting to go into labour (my son was 12 days overdue) I downloaded all the Stephen Fry Harry Potter audiobooks and listened to them while marching around the village/cleaning the house and trying to be patient.

TELL US A JOKE! Why couldn't the pony sing "Happy Birthday?"

Because she was just a little hoarse!



WHEN TRYING TO EXPLAIN THE WORK WE DO HERE AT STRENGTH FOR ENDURANCE, THERE'S NOTHING MORE POWERFUL THAN A REAL LIFE EXAMPLE....

Oliver's Story - From a Devastating Knee Injury to Running Across Madeira

When Oliver initially came to us at the beginning of 2022, he had just received a rather devastating diagnosis affecting the meniscus in his left knee. As a keen runner, it was what he loved to do, but when he was offered surgery and a less than optimistic prognosis on recovery it was doubtful that he would ever be able to run again and certainly not across the distances or intensities that he wanted to.

Following our consultation call Oliver worked through our Movement Screening and Baseline Testing protocol, a process that all our clients work through whether working with us remotely or face to face. This is a chance for us to establish a starting point; what are the individual's strengths, what are their weaknesses and what is their current capacity for work? Oliver had a good level of calf strength, core strength and his mobility didn't show any reason to be concerned. However there were significant deficits in his

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posterior chain strength, notably his hamstrings and he lacked single leg strength, stability and power. As a result of the meniscal injury he was very uncomfortable jumping and landing on his left leg. It's worth noting that as well as the damage to his meniscus Oliver had been struggling with multiple calf strains and knee pain making his run tolerance very inconsistent.

So began Oliver's first 12 week block of training. Following a structured individualized program we focused on building his global (whole body) strength and in particular worked on the weaknesses that were identified in his testing. Our holistic approach saw a strong focus on recovery strategies, load management and accountability when it came to his return to run pathway. We're proud of the unique multi-disciplinary team approach we have at SFE, be it with our own Physiotherapist, external health professionals, running, cycling or triathlon coaches. Communication is vital here to ensure the individual gets the support they need, that they are clear about their goals, the work they need to maintain and the progressive pathway back into their sport.

We will let Oliver's words below tell the rest of the story...

"I know I perhaps have gone over it a few times before, but I wanted to remind you of my story with you. In January 2022 I got the diagnosis that I had ruptured the medial meniscus in my left knee, and the consultant felt he was unlikely to ever get me running again. This devastating news had me convinced I would not be able to run again. 5 days later I met you. You pretty much know the rest! Within 9 months I was running across Madeira. I did my first Ultramarathon in January 2023, second one in May and today I completed my first ever 50 mile ultra. To even be considering such an undertaking would have seemed insane back in January 2022. To be toeing the line is just simply mad. But with the help and support of brilliant people like you, my running coach Angela, and nutritionist Paul that's where I was. And then I went and won it! Please don't ever underestimate the impact you have on people's lives - I am forever grateful."

If you want to find out more about getting over injury and how we work with individuals both remotely and face to face then head over to www.strengthforendurance.com or contact us at: info@strengthforendurance.com

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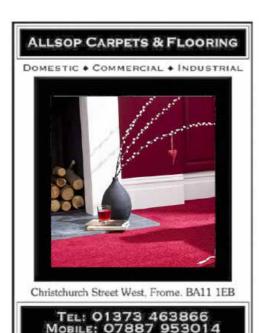
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LUNCHEON CLUB

We are all looking forward to celebrating the Christmas Lunch at Hunters Lodge, Wincanton again this year. This meal is for all members and the cooks and helpers who work so hard through the year to keep the club going.



We have also invited some members of Welcome Club who do not also belong to Luncheon Club to join us. In total a group of 67 will celebrate together, taking over the whole dining area. A very noisy but happy occasion.

Our last lunch at the Village Hall is on 7th December and we reopen again on Thursday 4th January.

From everyone at Luncheon Club we wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2024.



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WELCOME CLUB

On Thursday 16th November the Welcome Club held their AGM at Horningsham Hall. I am pleased to say about 30 members turned up which was very good. Tom the Chairman opened the meeting thanking everyone for coming, saying it is the members Club, so we wanted their input for the running of the club and choosing outings for next year.

Lesley the Treasurer handed members a copy of the balance sheet and discussed finances which all looked very healthy. Pearl then discussed outings, pieces of paper had been handed to members to put three of their choices so Tom Lesley and Pearl can choose the most wanted outing depending on cost. Members were offered tea and biscuits, Tom then thanked Lesley and Pearl for their work and reminded members of the Christmas Bingo on Monday 27th November 7pm for 7.30pm at Maiden Bradley Hall, also the Christmas dinner is at Hunters Lodge on Thursday 14th December. We wish all the members and everyone a Happy Christmas also let's hope 2024 is a more peaceful year around the world.

Pearl Hudson.

MERE AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME www.merelink.org.uk

The more perceptive among you may have noticed there was no Link report in November's Mere Matters. Our contribution was prepared but I sent it in latedoh! I have done better for December as our copy has already been sent to the editor. It includes some thoughts on the Link from Gwil Hitchcock, a volunteer who is now benefiting from our services. If you would like to write a few words for a future Mere Matters please let me know.

We continue to do around 90 trips/month and, as usual, will try to cover trips over the Festive Period provided we have sufficient notice. Thank you all for your continuing help. We did have one trip in October for which we could not find a driver so please mention your Link driving to any of your friends who may be interested in joining us and encourage them to do so.

I have got a little behind with keeping DBS checks up to date. Unless you have signed up for the "update service" we need to renew your DBS certificate every three years. Some drivers also need to arrange a Drive First driving assessment because they are 79 years old or did their last assessment three years ago. Drivers have found these assessments helpful as they have affirmed their driving ability and given useful tips. I will be in touch in the next few weeks if you need a new DBS check or a Drive First assessment.

John FitzGerald, Link Chair Mere and District Link Scheme 01747 860867 07795606426 Link phone 01747 860096 www.merelink.org.uk

Additional drivers are needed to join the LINK team

To find out more call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWS

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



COMPILED BY THE MAIDEN BRADLEY COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH VOLUNTEERS
TO KEEP THE VILLAGE SAFE AND AWARE OF OUR ACTIVITIES.

"We are taking a break"

After much deliberation and discussion, it has been decided that Maiden Bradley Community Speed Watch group will stand down as of today's date until Monday 5th February 2024.

The reasons are several: the time of year with short days and light during operating hours, inclement weather, availability of members during peak hours required, lack of members interested, thereby putting extra workload on willing members. All this adds up to things falling back on the willing few who have been and are so supportive.

We do plan however to hold a meeting in January 2024 to reform and discuss how we go forward. So thinking caps on. It would be very sad should CSW die in Maiden Bradley when we have been so successful and run for just on 7 years to date.

In the meantime - thank you all for both the physical and moral support you have given CSW over the years.

We do it for the village, NOT because we are fanatical about collecting speeding vehicle registration numbers?

Ooorrr!!!!! Maybe we are!!!

Simon Wager

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



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