



MAIDEN BRADLEY NEWS

JANUARY 2024

THE SEYMOUR FLAG FLYING OVER ALL SAINTS
CHURCH ON SEBASTIAN AND POPPY'S
WEDDING DAY

MAIDEN BRADLEY PARISH NEWS - ISSUE 415

DIARY JANUARY 2024

- 5 **Fri** Household waste collection
- 6 **Sat** Underwoods Fish and Chip Van 4.30-6pm
- 9 **Tue** Green recycling
- 11 **Thu** Blue bin and black box recycling
- 14 **Sun** Communion Service led by Rev Liz Smith 10am
- 17 **Wed** Household waste collection
- 20 **Sat** Underwoods Fish and Chip Van 4.30-6pm
Copy deadline for News pat@visa-office.com
- 21 **Sun** Churches Together service at St Peter's Church, Stourhead 10am
- 22 **Mon** Green recycling
- 24 **Wed** Blue bin and black box recycling
- 31 **Wed** Household waste collection

SAVE THE DATE

9th February in the Village Hall, a talk by Ben Goldsmith, in aid of the Friends of Maiden Bradley's All Saint's Church.

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Speed Watch Co-ordinator	Simon Wager	simon.m.wager@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	bookingsmaidenbradleyhall@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 Church Bell Tower - beginners welcome		01985 845397
Church contact	Diana Bourne	01985 844500
Environmental issues	greenermaidenbradley@gmail.com	
Nadder Oil Buying Club	Email:richard.willan@me.com	www.oilbuyingclub.com

EDITORIAL

Last month saw two weddings in our ancient church and we send our sincere congratulations to George and Simone and Sebastian and Poppy. Bellingers rang for both weddings and fortunately it didn't rain on the brides. Much preparation had gone into the church for these occasions, the church was warm, flowers looked beautifully seasonal and the lighting had been greatly improved. We wish both couples a very happy life together in the years ahead.

The News Team wishes everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Elaine, Kate, Rosie, Nev and Pat.

Patricia Kennedy 845397 pat@visa-office.com



CHURCH NEWS

Our long-awaited new benefice rector will be joining us in January and there will be a Licensing Service at St George's, Bourton on Thursday 25th January at 7pm.

This will be a big service with the Chapter (local clerics) in attendance and we are all invited to welcome Revd Graham Southgate. After the service, light refreshments will be served in Bourton School. Parking can be tricky and will be on the road around the church.



Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall

Saturday 6th and 20th January
Underwoods Fish & Chip Van 4.30pm-6pm

PANTOMIME REHEARSALS
every Thursday evening 6-8pm & Friday evening 7-9pm (except 9th Feb)

PANTOMIME PERFORMANCES

Thursday 15th February evening, Friday 16th February evening and
2 performances on Saturday 17th February
see back page for booking details



NEW PILATES CLASS STARTING JANUARY 2024
(in addition to existing classes)

We are so lucky in Maiden Bradley to have a brilliant Pilates instructor (Dawn). Ever wanted to try Pilates but don't like the idea of lying on a mat, or have an injury or illness that prevents you?

The solution is here - and the best way to rediscover your "core".

CHAIR PILATES

45 Minute class

Starting Monday 8th January 2024

10.45 am

01985 845303 *leave message*
www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk
maidenbradleyhall@gmail.com

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY	9.30 - 10.30	Pilates
	10.45 - 11.00	Chair Pilates (from Jan 8th)
	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
	<i>MUSIC AND MOVEMENT WITH DAWN - COFFEE AND TEA AFTER</i>	
	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

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CAROL SINGING FOR DOROTHY HOUSE

Thanks to everyone who came to support Dorothy House hospice on December 11th at the Memorial Hall.

A sum of £85 was raised.

Thanks to the committee for supplying refreshments half way through which was very welcome and revived the singers for the remainder of the evening.

Sue Priestner.

The annual Xmas lunch for the Frome and District walking for health group was held at the Village hall on Friday December 8. The walkers enjoyed a lovely spread and so many guests commented on how well they were looked after. So much so that they have already booked for Christmas 2024.

WALKERS LUNCH

A big thank you must go to all the volunteers whose hard work made the event such a big success.

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO:

Brenda, Carole, Julie, Esme, Christina, Diane, Jo and Jean.



VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

NOVEMBER

1st Jon Grimstead	£25.60	2nd Paul Cox	£12.80
3rd R. Stevens	£7.80	4th Zena Gunter	£5.05

DECEMBER

1st R Higgins	£25.60	2nd Giles De Mare	£12.80
3rd Pearl Hudson	£7.80	4th Janet Thomas	£5.05

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.



WELL, TIMES ARE CHANGING ON THE KNAPP

The Bench on the Knapp has been replaced in memory of David Morse and the work was carried out by a determined band from The Village Hall, The Knapp, The Parish and Parish Council. Liberally supported by that ancient British beverage, tea or as colloquially known as a cup of Rosie Lee. In this case rightly so, as Rosie Brown very kindly provided the tea.

The Knapp has been completely cleared and brought back to be a Village Green. This stunning work was carried out by David Munford and his team from DMR Munford Forestry who worked hard and long to bring it to the stage it is today. Councillor Tyler Barrass assisted the team and noted that there is still lot to do on the fencing, trees, and old stumps removal. So it's an ongoing project.

We now have a Christmas Tree, a lovely sight on coming into the village. Again this was provided by David Munford of DMR Forestry at their cost, which is a wonderful contribution. No. 52 The Knapp very kindly offered to supply power for the lights on the tree during the Christmas period. The kindness and generosity of this village never fails to astound me and make it a wonderful village to live in. We have a plan to reinstate the Village Stocks on the Knapp next year. So really nothing more to say at this stage other than a very big heartfelt thankyou to all that have supported this and many other projects both physically and in thought.



A Merry Christmas and may your God go with you.













Simon Wager

Chairman

Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield Parish Council.

GREENER MAIDEN BRADLEY

A YEAR'S WORTH OF GREEN NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

-  **JANUARY** – Leave your reusable shopping bags at the front door so you don't forget them on the way out
-  **FEBRUARY** – Carry wet flannels in a box instead of wet wipes for babies and toddlers
-  **MARCH** – Buy loose fruit and veg
-  **APRIL** – Reuse small soft-fruit punnets as seed trays or use cardboard loo roll tubes for planting seedlings instead of little plastic pots
-  **MAY** – Use paper tape, reused bubble wrap and cardboard boxes for packaging
-  **JUNE** – Put a plate over leftover food in the fridge. No more clingfilm!
-  **JULY** – Cut up old clothes that aren't good enough to pass on and turn them into cleaning cloths
-  **AUGUST** – Make your own ice lollies in reusable freezer trays
-  **SEPTEMBER** – Reuse bread and cereal bags as sandwich or freezer bags
-  **OCTOBER** – Don't buy individually wrapped sweets – go for those sold loose in boxes or jars
-  **NOVEMBER** – If you can afford it, order milk online for delivery in glass bottles
-  **DECEMBER** – Reuse old wrapping paper to for presents

*Why not print or cut this out & stick it on the fridge then give yourself a tick every time you remember one of the resolutions.
(Shhh... you don't need to wait until the appropriate month!)*

SWAP SHOP AT THE VILLAGE HALL 18TH FEBRUARY

All are welcome to Maiden Bradley Swap Shop at the Memorial hall on 18th February. Donations of good condition clothes toys books tools household items and unwanted gifts to swap are welcome in the hall from 10am on Sunday, or can be collected earlier in the week (or brought to 59 the rank) if necessary by calling Maria on 844558 or leaving a message.

Tokens will be given for items brought to swap, then from 1 - 4 browsing and exchanging your tokens for wanted items can take place. Any unused tokens can be left at the door for others needing more.

We look forward to connecting swapping and sharing with you all soon. If you would like to be involved in meeting planning or helping run the Swap Shop please contact me on 844556 or murtleurtle@yahoo.com

Maria Higgins

A Wilder Future

a talk by Ben Goldsmith

February 9th 2024 6:30pm
Maiden Bradley Memorial Hall



Raising funds for the repair and maintenance of our lovely church
Refreshments available

Tickets £15
bookable via [Eventbrite](#) – search for 'Goldsmith Maiden Bradley'



MAIDEN BRADLEY WEIGHTWATCHERS

Report of our meeting with Wiltshire Council and our local MP

On Friday 15th December 2023, representatives of the three villages HGV campaign attended a meeting with Cllr Caroline Thomas, cabinet member for highways, the Rt Hon Dr Andrew Murrison MP, and Cllr Bill Parks, our local representative.

Cllr Thomas provided an update on work so far undertaken by Wiltshire Council to review implementation of weight limits on roads through the three villages. The procedure the Council will follow in 2024 was clearly set out, with key elements including consultation of stakeholders, and data modelling.

The three villages left the meeting encouraged that there is a political will to find a solution, and evidence of a clear roadmap ahead.



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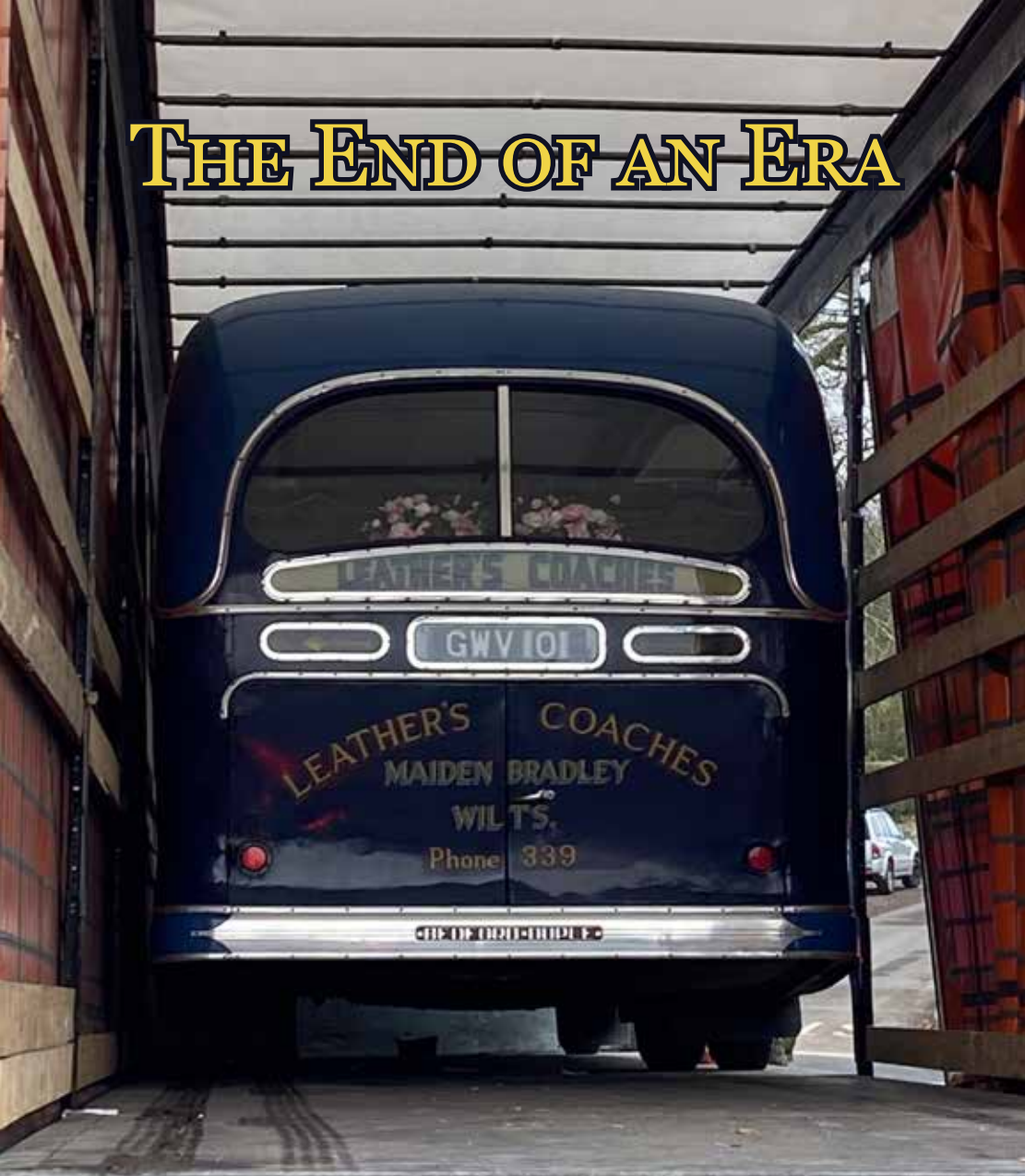
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THE END OF AN ERA



THE LAST COACH HAS FINALLY LEFT
LEATHERS COACHES YARD



Don Newbury collected the new Bedford OB with a Duple coach body, GWV 101 from the manufacturer in 1951. The coach was used for day trips, tours and as a school bus for 48 years and then used in films and was a regular at vehicle rallies and running days for many years.

A lot of people have ridden on this coach and the catch phrase we always knew coming when people saw it at rallies was "I went to school on this bus!"

The coach was kept as original, with its original upholstery, sliding roof and hand wound windows, which made it a collector's item.

The coach is now getting a new lease of life as it has been bought by a collector Malta, who, we know will love it as much as the family and friends have. This is very fitting as Sylvia and Len Cooper visited Malta many times to ride on the old buses, sadly now not in operation.



The logistics of transporting a very low old coach needed to be solved. The coach had to be reversed on to a lorry that was height adjustable and then the lorry lowered so that the coach could be driven on to a much bigger transporter. It has been driven down to Genoa and then taken across to Malta by ship.

We all have very fond memories of this fabulous bus and hope it enjoys its new home.

Sylvia Cooper

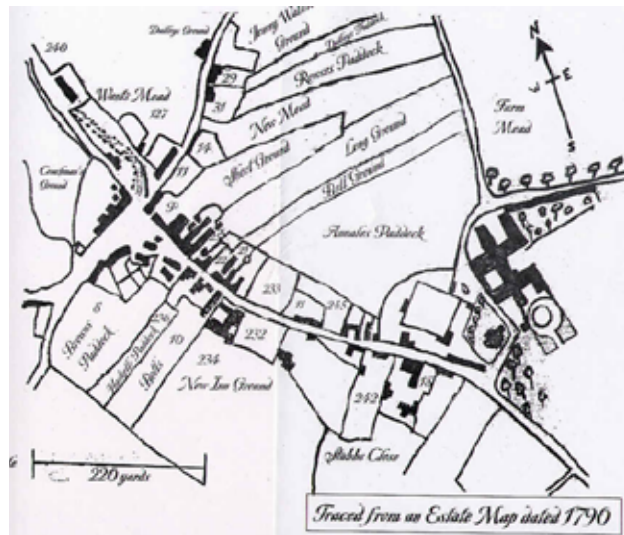
A SHORT HISTORY OF MAIDEN BRADLEY'S VILLAGE SHOP

As many of you may already know, our small village has a very rich history, with the village taking its name from the leper hospital founded in the 12th century. The earliest reference to the village is in 878 on a Saxon land charter, and there has been a number of historic finds in the village, including the female skeleton at the church and Iron Age gold coins.

With this rich history in mind and before the doors of our village shop open again, we wanted to take a look back at our shop's history before it enters a new future as The Bradley Pantry.

Maiden Bradley has been a hub of activity and trading throughout history, with evidence of markets taking place in the village since 1267. Originally near the priory, but moving to Church Street later, local produce such as eggs, cheese and butter were sold as well as knick-knacks from travelling tradesmen.

Two important coaching routes went through the village, London to Barnstaple and Bath to Poole, helping to increase trade and activity during the 18th century, our village has had a trading platform for over 700 years and the road continues to be a major link road in current times.



It is believed that the village stores building was built by the Lambert family, (who were wool merchants) as part of their home in the 18th Century. There is evidence to show the building on this map above (the c shaped building to the left of no.232) dates from 1790, however we are unsure as to when this building became a shop.

When the shop was owned by Walton's it was in the Lambert house (now known as the Manor House), not its current location.

In 1889 the village shop became a branch of Walton's Department store in Mere. They sold a wide range of items from clothing to groceries, everything local people would need, and if something wasn't in stock in Bradley, then it would be ordered in from Mere. Walton's also had a bakery which during the 1920s was kept very busy, especially at festive occasions such as Easter and Christmas. Evidence of this



Lor. I. Tax Office

was found during the recent renovations & we have an old flour sack found on the first floor.

The village shop later became Charnley's, or more affectionately known as Bottom Shop. Charnley's had a sister shop in Kilmington which was run by Mr Charnley, whilst Bradley shop was run by Mrs Dean (Brenda Smart's Mother). My Mother, Wendy, has particularly fond memories of this section in our shop's history, & told me of the half penny sweets they used to

sell, and of a very fancy rabbit fur toy dog with a bobbing head that she loved, which was duly bought for her from the shop. She also remembered the post office and the large range of general goods that they stocked.

At this time (in the 70's) our village also had a second shop called Top Shop, located at the old lock up, it later became an antiques shop and then the Locksmiths restaurant run by Howard and Jane Smith, before becoming a house.



In 2001 our village shop was facing trouble and our lovely community stepped in to save the shop, making it the first community run shop in the County. More than a third of Maiden Bradley's 300 residents came to a meeting where they decided to create a community shop. Villagers bought shares in the shop ranging from £5-£500 to help support its start-up. It was refurbished with a new sign, brand new shelving and a range of new produce to sell.

An important aspect of our community shop was to sell locally sourced produce and they did this very well with bread from Taylor's Bakery in Bruton, fish from Mere Fish Farm and Spencer's eggs from Zeals.

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We hope to continue this in The Bradley Pantry as we are also very passionate about supporting local businesses and providing local produce to help reduce the footprint of our produce.



The community shop and post office continued very successfully for several years, but sadly it closed on the 13th of January 2018, nearly six years ago.

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We at the Bradley Pantry are thrilled to be reopening this once loved shop. We are a family run business, and we all have our own fond memories of the shop as I'm sure many of you do too. Personally, I remember being very excited by the pick and mix section where my brother & I would often take very careful consideration over which sweets to buy making sure we had enough pocket money to buy them.

The information I have used here came mainly from the list of websites below, and a special thank you to John Priestner for the photographs.

- <https://sites.google.com/site/maidenbradley/maiden-amenities/village-shop>
- <https://maidenbradleyvillage.org.uk/community-shop/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2002/jun/10/ruralaffairs.communities>
- <http://maidenbradleyvillage.org.uk/history/>





LINK NUMBER 10 - SEAN (FRANK) PARKINSON

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED MAIDEN BRADLEY?

4 Years; we moved to the village in December 2019

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

Canada for a family skiing trip. This was also the time of the winter Olympics so most of the flight was full of athletes. They also had to move snow between mountains due to lack of snow in some places!

TELL US SOMETHING OF YOUR WORK

I worked as a general builder alongside my dad since leaving school. In those 17 years I picked up qualifications in plumbing and carpentry as well as a host of other skills in the building industry.

At the start of 2023 I decided to venture out on my own, concentrating on carpentry as that was my most preferred area. It's been hard work, but I've enjoyed every minute.

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Skiing in the winter

Surfing when I have the time.

WHAT IS YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY?

Probably when I was about 6 years old and my dad would take me to work during school holidays and being able to make wooden go-carts.



TELL US ABOUT AN ANIMAL THAT MEANS/MEANT A LOT TO YOU.

Our old family dog HP (as in the sauce).

We got him in 2006 and he would come to work with us every day in the van, he would follow me and my dad everywhere like a shadow. I would often throw down my jacket for him to lie on... but he would rather lie in the dust. He looked very much like a highland cow and used to get a lot of laughs when hanging his head out the window!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FILM/TV SERIES?

Under an Arctic sky. A surf film set in Iceland... I'd watch it every day if I was allowed!

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

Gaining my carpentry qualifications and enabling me to start my own business.

TELL US SOMETHING THAT YOU THINK WILL SURPRISE MOST READERS?

My name is Sean, but all my friends call me Frank since primary school... we're still not sure why. Even my best friend's parents still don't know I'm actually called Sean.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SEASON?

Winter! Absolutely love it when it's snowing, constantly watching out the window when it does.

Also means it's the ski season and big winter swells for surfing.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

Traditional Cornish pasty "a pasty a day keeps the doctor away"

TELL US ABOUT A HIGHLIGHT IN YOUR LIFE

Being driven around the Nurburgring race track in Germany by a professional racing driver, was the most terrifying and most exciting experience.



John and Sue Priestner enjoy their footplate ride at the East Somerset Railway which they won in the online auction in aid of All Saints Church.



www.eastsomersetrailway.com

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES - NOVEMBER 11TH 2023

Residents are being urged to use their voice and tell the Police and Crime Commissioner how they feel about policing in their communities, what Wiltshire Police should be prioritising and how the policing budget should be spent next year.

The Policing, Priorities and Pounds survey, launched today, seeks the views of residents and stakeholders as PCC Philip Wilkinson develops the budget for policing and commissioned services for the next financial year (2024/25).

As part of the survey respondents will be asked whether their household would be prepared to invest more in policing through the police precept part of their council tax.

Mr Wilkinson said: "As your Police and Crime Commissioner, it is my job to ensure Wiltshire Police have the necessary resources to fight and prevent crime, improve visibility and improve the service you receive – answering 101 and 999 when you call, responding when you need help, protecting vulnerable people and Making Wiltshire

"We are seeing improvements being made by Wiltshire Police in its delivery of the policing service that residents rightly expect - and deserve – but there is ever more work to do in order that you see, and feel, those improvements too.

"The Chief Constable has already identified reviewing how frontline policing services are delivered alongside a greater emphasis on strategic planning at senior level and investing in that capability, will continue to deliver long-term, sustainable, improvements for the Force. She has also been very clear with me that further investment is required in these areas.

"It is also apparent from residents' feedback – heard by both myself and the Chief Constable throughout our varying public engagements this year – you are still not seeing improvements in police service delivery as quickly as you would like and this feedback, alongside the clear picture from the Force, forms the backdrop to my budget planning this year.

"As PCC, it is vital that I look at the totality of policing and the police budget – and ensure the Force has an efficient, effective, police service but also that we are not cutting services at a time when we need to invest more to improve service delivery."

Wiltshire Police's budget is set by the PCC, based upon the operational policing advice from the Chief Constable, and informed by consultation with residents and stakeholders.

The budget is made up of centralised government funding from the Home Office and locally from the police precept part of your council tax. Wiltshire Police is constantly challenged by the fact it is one of the lowest-funded Forces nationally, per head of population, and the PCC continues to push for change and for review of the national funding formula.

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However, it is the responsibility of the PCC to ensure Wiltshire Police has the necessary resources to fight, and prevent, crime and enable the Force with the right resources, equipment and estate to make it future fit and further protect Wiltshire's residents.

Mr Wilkinson added: "The Cost of Living crisis is squeezing all financial elements for families, businesses and the public sector, alike, so any increase to the precept I know will be felt keenly but we have a clear opportunity to transform Wiltshire Police for the better and I am asking for the public to use their voice and have their say.

"I have already committed to a new southern policing hub for the county and that pledge to deliver this continues and there are further plans to invest in our policing estate which we will announce shortly. Both the Chief Constable and I are committed to delivering a policing service which is able to meet an ever-changing crime picture and is fit for the future too."

The survey runs from Tuesday 5 December 2023 until Monday 29 January 2024 and can be accessed on the PCC's website or by this link: surveymonkey.com/PolicingPrioritiesAndPounds

MERE AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME

www.merelink.org.uk



01747 860096
9am – 5pm Weekdays Only

First some sad news as one of our drivers Tony Rankin died on Saturday after a long illness. May he rest in peace.

We had a busy month in November with 112 trips, including 45 to Odstock. We also had 9 cancellations. The monthly average has increased to 93. Details on request only.

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 remember that our coordinators work in their own homes – we do not have an office - so please keep calls to 9-5 Monday to Friday and only use the 01747 860096 number. Also, please try to give us a minimum of 48 hours notice (not including Saturdays and Sundays) as we cannot guarantee our co-ordinator will be at home to arrange last minute requests.

Finally, early notice that the Link will continue to take people to medical appointments over the Christmas and New Year period but please note that our phone will not be “manned” on 25, 26, 27

December and 1 and 2 January 2024. So if you have a medical appointment between these dates please let us know by 24th December to give us the best chance of getting you a driver.

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.



THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH IN MAIDEN BRADLEY

THE MERE SIGHT OF A CSW RADAR TEAM SLOWS DRIVERS DOWN.

Just one glimpse of a team wielding the radar gun in Maiden Bradley keeps plenty of drivers within the speed limit for weeks even at times when no team is actually active.

CSW keeps our village roads safer. That fact is beyond doubt

What is in doubt, however, can Maiden Bradley continue to field CSW teams?

At the current level of participation the answer is, No, we cannot.

We no longer have sufficient volunteers to keep CSW operational.

We need a minimum of 5 new volunteers to commit to

at least one (hour-long) session a month.

One Hour a Month!

IF NO ONE STEPS UP, CSW MUST SHUT DOWN. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

We will give it until Monday 22nd January 2024. If you have one hour every month and are willing to help keep our roads safer, don't wait. Please don't hang back and expect someone else to pick up the slack, "They will not"

Sign up now - encourage your friends to sign up with you!

Keep Maiden Bradley CSW in the field.

Or don't, and we will shut it down.

Rest assured of that. It's up to you.

DO IT FOR THE COMMUNITY AND SAFETY OF MAIDEN BRADLEY VILLAGE.

Simon Wager

Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator.

Chairman Maiden Bradley Parish Council

Goldilocks

the Three Bears
and the

Big
Bad
Wolf



MAIDEN BRADLEY MEMORIAL HALL

15th, 16th and 17th February 2024

PERFORMANCE TIMES:

7.30pm Thurs and Friday

2.30pm and 7.30pm Saturday

Doors open 30 mins earlier

LICENSED BAR - RAFFLE

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eventbrite

or Carol Kenzie 01985 844745

£5 CHILDREN, £8 ADULTS

(unless the Wolf puts the prices up!)

